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Sharansky: Azzam arrest was plot to undermine Israel

DAVID HARRIS
CAIRO

THE arrest of Azzam Azzam was an orchestrated Egyptian attempt to kill Israel's chances of success at the Cairo economic conference. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky claimed here yesterday.

During a series of meetings with Egyptian and American ministers, Sharansky called for more news on the arrest of Azzam, a Druse from the Galilee who works in a Cairo textile factory. Egyptian authorities have accused Azzam of engaging in espionage with an Egyptian national.

"I think the incident is an attempt by certain forces in Egypt to undermine the efforts to improve economic relations and to build cooperation," said Sharansky. "The reaction I'm getting is quite often exactly the reaction of certain Soviet ministers when the question of Russian disidents was raised."

However, he added, he is sure those he met yesterday — including the Egyptian industry, trade, and economic ministers — would pass the message of concern to the highest circles.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor also raised the subject during discussions with Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who said he would look into the matter. Moussa promised to pass on any information at the earliest opportunity.

A meeting is to take place today between senior officials of Egypt and Israel to discuss the situation.

Azzam's family and friends are also in Cairo to try to find out more information.

Last night, family representative Ayoub Kara said, "I'm refusing to leave Cairo until I know he is free. He is 100 percent innocent. I believe Azzam is very naive, but maybe the Egyptian they arrested was less so."

Israel: Azzam is not an agent

BATSHEVA TSUR

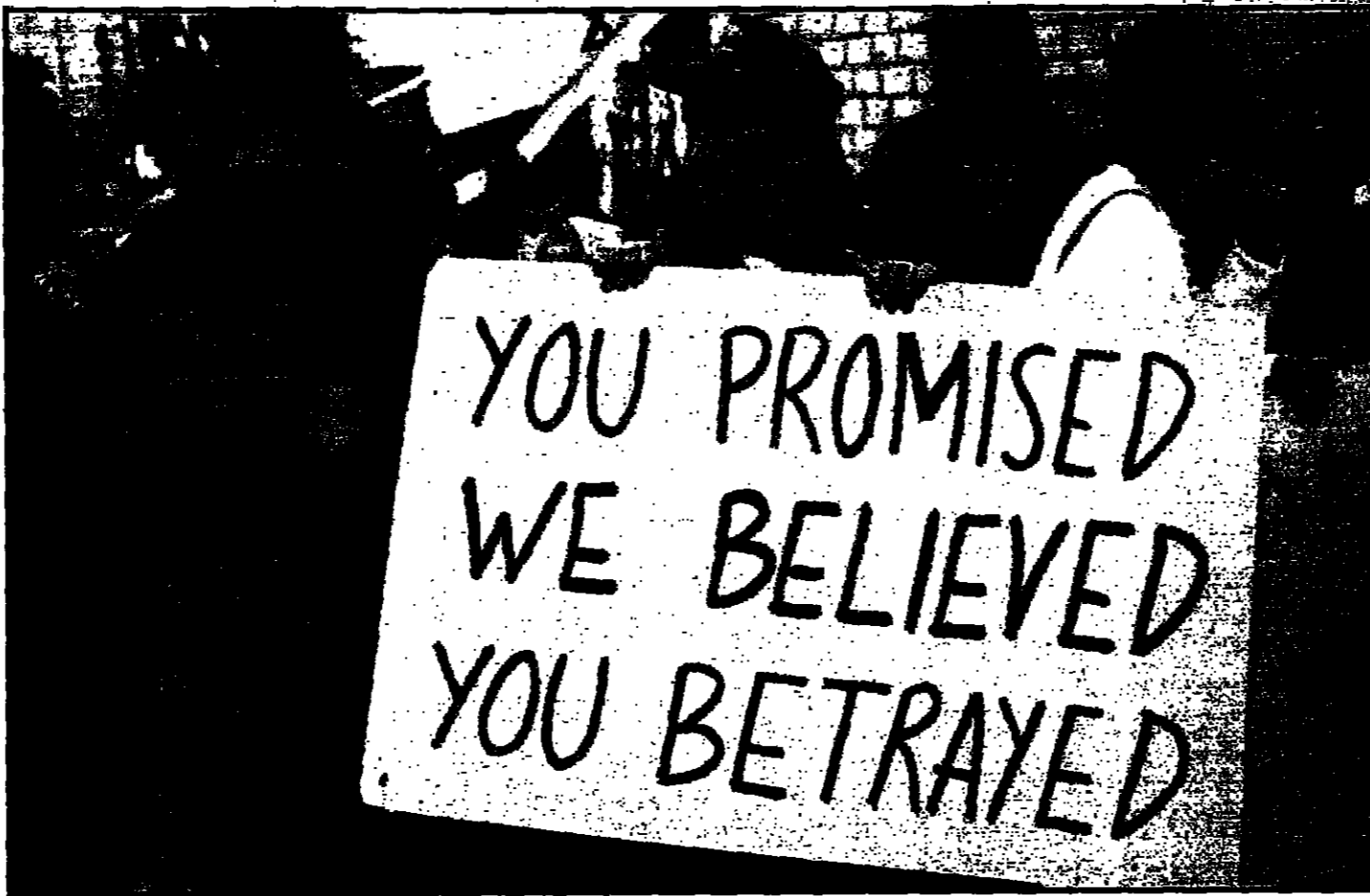
THE Israeli Embassy in Cairo yesterday lodged a formal demand with the Egyptian government to free Azzam Azzam, an Israeli citizen who disappeared in Cairo a week ago and is suspected by the Egyptians of being a Mossad agent.

Earlier, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a strongly worded message to President Hosni Mubarak stating that an investigation had revealed categorically that Azzam was not involved in espionage activities and must be released.

Foreign Minister David Levy also said that "Azzam is an innocent citizen who has a family and is clean [of involvement in espionage]."

Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur conveyed a similar message to Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassioumy.

(Continued on Page 2)



Police push back members of Women in Green demonstrating against Hebron redeployment outside Prime Minister Netanyahu's Jerusalem home yesterday.

Hebron awaits the day after redeployment with trepidation

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
HERB KEINON

A DRILL for medical personnel, simulating a large attack with numerous injuries, was scheduled for late last night in Hebron, as the IDF continued preparing for the unknown reality to be ushered in when the redeployment agreement is finally signed.

"Everybody here is waiting for an attack," said one of the medics scheduled to take part in the drill. "The way people are talking around here — the border policemen and the Nahal soldiers — it is not a question of if an attack will take place, but when."

On each of the last two nights, there has been a drill simulating attacks with many wounded, the medic said. "In my three years of reserve duty, I've never had a drill like that."

The medic said that in briefings with their commanders, the soldiers have been warned of two scenarios. The first is that Hamas will open fire on settlers as soon as the IDF completely redeploy, in an attempt to spark a conflagration that will eventually force the settlers completely out of the city.

The other is that terrorists will throw rocks at cars, hoping to provoke the occupants to get out and fire in the air. The terrorists then shoot back. The medic said that this tactic was explained as a way to blame the settlers for the incident.

The fear for Hebron's future was also evident in comments by members of the Committee for Peace and Security, a dovish group of reserve officers who made up yesterday's delegation that trooped up and down Hebron's hills to look at the city before the changeover. Every day another delegation of diplomats, journalists, politi-

cians, party hacks, or retired army men stand atop Abu Snehah and look down over the Jewish enclave below.

"I am very skeptical that it can work," said former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat, a reserve major-general and one of the group's leaders. "But you have to be realistic: The IDF is at this time redeploying in Hebron, and there is an attempt to try the [peace] process as it is; not to evacuate the Jews. In the long-term we might have to look in that direction, because I don't think things bode well here."

In the meantime, the IDF has, for all intents and purposes, pretty much already redeployed in Hebron. Except for a few dozen soldiers and some heavy equipment that still remains in the area to come under Palestinian control, everything else has been moved into the Jewish enclave.

"Once the IDF decides it is time to go, there is nothing we can do," said Hebron activist Moshe Ben-Zimra. "What are we going to do, lie in front of their buses?"

Even if some Hebron or Kiryat Arba settlers would like to adopt that tactic, there will hardly be any buses to lie down in front of.

One IDF source said that the personnel in the civil administration building, the last large bastion of Israeli presence, can be packed up in a couple of buses. The building, which months ago was teeming with activity, was dead yesterday. Sentries

around the sprawling structure were just waiting for the order to be given to pack it all in.

In addition to the soldiers still stationed at the civil administration, there are a handful of soldiers at the Haroz guardpost in eastern Hebron, and another handful at the Zchuchit junction leading into Kiryat Arba. These could be moved in a matter of minutes, IDF officials said.

There are very few IDF foot patrols outside areas that were to remain under Israeli control under the Arafat-Peres Hebron agreement. By contrast, the Jewish enclave is teeming with soldiers and policemen, who constantly patrol the streets leading from one of the Jewish compounds to the next.

Rumors in the city — where everyone seems to be waiting for something to happen, and looks everywhere for a sign that something is indeed happening — are abundant. Among yesterday's rumors were that the final IDF redeployment will take place on Shabbat; and that to make the settlement more defensible, the IDF plans on removing the seven Jewish families in the Tel Rumeida neighborhood.

This is discounted by settlement leaders, although much of their thought is now on what things will look like the day after.

"We can't force the IDF to patrol the city," said David Wilder. "We are not going to start a militia to attack the Arab police. Everything that we can do to stop redeployment, we have done... The day after, all our efforts will be channeled into staying put. We are not leaving."

Yosef to encourage kidney donations

JUDY SIEGEL

SHAS spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef will soon launch a campaign encouraging people to register to donate their kidneys after death.

Yosef has already issued a halachic ruling declaring it is a mitzva for a person to donate kidneys. However, he has prohibited families from donating the organs of a deceased relative who had not explicitly given his permission.

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri of Shas revealed at the welcoming ceremony for new Health Minister Yehoshua Matza that the campaign would initially involve only kidneys, as removal of other organs, which must be removed when the heart is still beating, is problematic.

Yosef voiced his views in a letter to outgoing health minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who met with numerous rabbis in recent months in an effort to

encourage organ donations.

Yosef also stated that since there is only negligible medical risk to a person who donates one of his kidneys to someone else in need, this is permitted. Only last week, Hanegbi decided that live donors of kidneys could be not only siblings, parents or children, but also spouses, uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents and grandchildren.

As for cadaver donations, Benizri said it was likely that special cards would be produced for those who wanted, on the basis of Yosef's ruling, to donate kidneys after their death. It would specify that the organs would not be removed until a physician "trusted by the rabbis" determined that the patient had died (according to the halachic definition of death). But if the deceased had not bequeathed organs during his lifetime, the family has no right to give doctors permission to take them, Yosef ruled.

CJF expected to urge no change in conversion legislation

MARILYN HENRY
SEATTLE

American Jewish organizations indicating that the proposed legislative change would not apply to conversions conducted outside of Israel.

That nicety was insufficient for Rabbi Amiel Hirsch, head of the Association of Reform Zionists of America. "The State of Israel is legislating laws that serve the primary purpose of disenfranchising movements," he said.

ARZA's campaign forced the CJF to depart from its tightly scripted program to address the legislation. Yesterday, the council was circulating a resolution urging the government to abstain from legislation that would change any aspect of the Law of Return or the "current situation," which, for some, is a code word for status quo.

The draft resolution, which is expected to be approved by the

delegates, is nearly identical to one passed in June in Jerusalem by the annual assembly of the Jewish Agency. And while it expresses an American sentiment, no one suggests it will have any greater practical effect with the government than did the Jewish Agency's resolution.

Nonetheless, it was expected to defuse the tension by giving the Americans what one pundit called a "face-saving victory."

"They can go home and say they fought off 'Who is a Jew,'" he said. "They take the narrow view, to limit the challenge they see facing them, and then say, 'We met with success.'"

Netanyahu's cancellation of his appearance left some delegates without a focus for a planned demonstration about religious pluralism. Three separate marches on the convention center were set to coincide with his appearance — two opposing his peace policies and one supporting them.

Einstein to wife: Do exactly as I say

TOM GROSS

NEWLY released letters, on show to the public for the first time this week in Jerusalem, reveal that Albert Einstein, the man who has become a byword for genius, had a less savory side to his character.

In one letter, written in 1914, less than two years before Einstein revolutionized science with the publication of his theory of relativity, he tried to impose extraordinary conditions of marriage on his first wife, Mileva. He told her:

1) You will expect no affection from me and you will not reproach me for this;
2) You must answer me at once when I speak to you;
3) You must leave my bedroom or study at once without protest-

ing when I ask you to go;

4) You will promise not to denigrate me in the eyes of my children, either by word or by deed.

The letters, part of a set of 430 letters and papers worth at least \$3 million, were briefly on public view in Jerusalem this week, at the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University, before being taken on, via Zurich and Berlin, for auction by Christie's in New York on November 25.

The sale is expected to generate enormous worldwide interest. "Einstein is the first real celebrity scientist. He has become the Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe of the scientific world," said Christie's Book Department International director Felix de Marez Oyens, visiting Israel for the first time.

"We thought it was fitting that they first be shown publicly here because of Einstein's great love of this country."

The Nobel Prize winner was asked by David Ben-Gurion in



The young Albert Einstein 1952 to become the second president of Israel. Other, earlier letters displayed

this week reveal a more loving, romantic side to Einstein, in which he called Serbian-born Mileva "my dear little kitten," and "my little Dollie."

The letters also show that at the same time the great physicist was being lauded for his new discoveries on relativity, his son, Hans Albert, then 11, was struggling to do his math homework.

The other half of the correspondence, including letters written to Einstein by Mileva and his children, is already at the Hebrew University, having been donated by Einstein, together with his literary rights. But in accordance with the terms of his estate the letters already held here cannot be made public until 2006. (Full report, Page 7)

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Kahalani: Security forces found weapons in Hebron Jewish community

INTERNAL Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani (Third Way) told the Knesset plenum yesterday that security forces had discovered some of the weapons stashed by Jewish residents in Hebron. Kahalani was answering parliamentary questions by MKs Tamar Gozansky (Hadash) and Eliezer Zandberg (Ismot) in Hebron.

Kahalani also said the police and General Security Service report which recommended evacuating Jewish residents as the solution to the Hebron problem was written by a junior intelligence officer and that police are not obliged to abide by it. He stressed that orders to evacuate residents could only come from the political echelons. He said the report, which mentions the possibility of two local women inculcating themselves to protest the redeployment, was "exaggerated."

The Jewish Residents Committee in Hebron rejected Kahalani's statement about discovering an arms cache.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who also answered a question on the subject, said: "I

LIAT COLLINS

want to believe that common sense, the basis of human wisdom, will win - not the extremists who would endanger everybody, everyone living in Hebron."

Mordechai said any attack or shooting incident would be examined immediately by the Palestinian Police in Hebron and the security forces.

"Any deviation discovered will be dealt with. ... If lives are endangered and the ability to run the city of Hebron is harmed, [security forces] must take all measures," Mordechai said.

MKs from the National Religious Party announced their disappointment after a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his Knesset office yesterday. Netanyahu made a dramatic entry to the meeting, looking hot and angry, and said he had come to listen, not speak. He was apparently cross that details of his meeting with MK Hanan Porat (NRP) earlier that morning had been leaked to the press.

Netanyahu reportedly told the fact that an initiated agree-

ment would be presented to the Knesset, while the NRP MKs are demanding the unsigned version be voted on. The faction said its minimum demand is that the NRP ministers, Yitzhak Levy and Ze'evulun Hammer, see the agreement before it is initiated.

MK Zvi Hendel, who was the Gaza Coast Regional Council head until elected to the Knesset, said he would not vote in favor of the agreement unless three basic conditions are included in the agreement: the right of hot pursuit, including as a preventative measure; the development of the Jewish community in Hebron; and the strict adherence to the agreement by both sides.

Molodet leader Rehavim Ze'evi and MK Benny Elon sent a letter to Netanyahu calling on him to halt the plans for the redeployment before he "enters history as the person who created the conditions to liquidate the Jewish community in the City of the Forefathers."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said: "Jews have the right to live in Hebron, but not those Jews. They should be removed."

Gov't allocates \$30,000 to aid Zaire

BATSHEVA TSUR AND LIAT COLLINS

ISRAEL has allocated an immediate sum of \$30,000 towards medicine for the tens of thousands of sick refugees in Zaire. The government also is exploring ways of joining multinational efforts, including the multinational force expected to be set up by the UN Security Council.

"We will be among the first to be [in the stricken area]," Foreign Minister David Levy said yesterday.

Levy said Israel is prepared to participate in an international force in Zaire. He also said Israel is prepared to immediately help with a donation of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals and the embassy in Zaire is already acting to purchase the goods.

More than a million Hutu refugees have been displaced as a result of a month of fighting with rival Tutsi, who gained control of part of Zaire that borders on Rwanda and Burundi. Earlier this week, a UN doctor warned that a quarter-million people could be wiped out by a cholera epidemic which has broken out among the Hutus in a refugee camp near the town of Bukavu.

Levy answered seven motions to the agenda on the subject in the Knesset plenum raised by MKs from

various parties. He said the conditions in the region are dangerous and there is no address or body there with which Israel can coordinate a relief mission. He said the UN's mission is being held up for the same reason. If Israel found a partner to deal with in the area, it would be prepared to take action even before the international community organizes its relief campaign, Levy said.

At the initiative of Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel, a group of MKs met yesterday with Rwanda's ambassador in Israel and today expects to meet the US and South African ambassadors in an effort to find a way to send Israeli aid to the area.

MK Adisu Massala (Labor) sent a letter to the prime minister calling for emergency assistance to be sent to Zaire and saying that, as an Ethiopian immigrant he could identify with the people there. He said the world was deaf to the problem, but the Jewish People are obliged to help because of its history of suffering poverty and persecution as refugees in many countries.

The Tel Aviv University Student Union is collecting donations to help

Cairo's hottest ticket: Lunch at the Israeli table

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
DAVID HARRIS

DAY two of the Cairo economic conference and the initial technical hiccups seem to have subsided. This was the day each country was given to sell itself. The Palestinian luncheon was a good indicator of the lack of interest in the territories.

Of the five lunches, three were instant sellouts, including the Israeli. Eventually, all the Jordanian tickets were also snapped up. Only the PA failed to fill its hall.

At my table were executives from Occidental-Skoda AS and the Japanese Center for International Finance. During the course of a three-hour meal, it became clear that my fellow table-guests and many others had no real intention of doing business in the territories.

When Palestinian Authority Minister of Economy and Trade Maher Masri rose to speak, he received polite, even warm applause. He talked of the willingness of Palestinians to invest and the hope the foreigners would follow suit. However, he admitted privately no one is talking seriously about such investment.

Perhaps the most interesting places in the huge conference venue, which makes the Jerusalem International Convention Center appear like a local synagogue hall, are the snake like corridors which link the Myriad Hall and the meeting rooms.

It's here where any business that's going to be done, is done. Handshakes, exchanges of business cards or company profiles, and arrangements of future company visits are to be seen all around.

The Israel exhibition area is also a hive of activity, with entrepreneurs popping in and out. The stall is surrounded, like the reality on the ground, by Arabs behind its Qatar and in front Jordan and "Palestine."

Unlike the first day of the conference, more of the visitors to the Israeli stand appear to be foreign. While some Israelis talk pessimistically, most are now doing what they came for, not politics but business.

NOT AN AGENT

(Continued from Page 1)

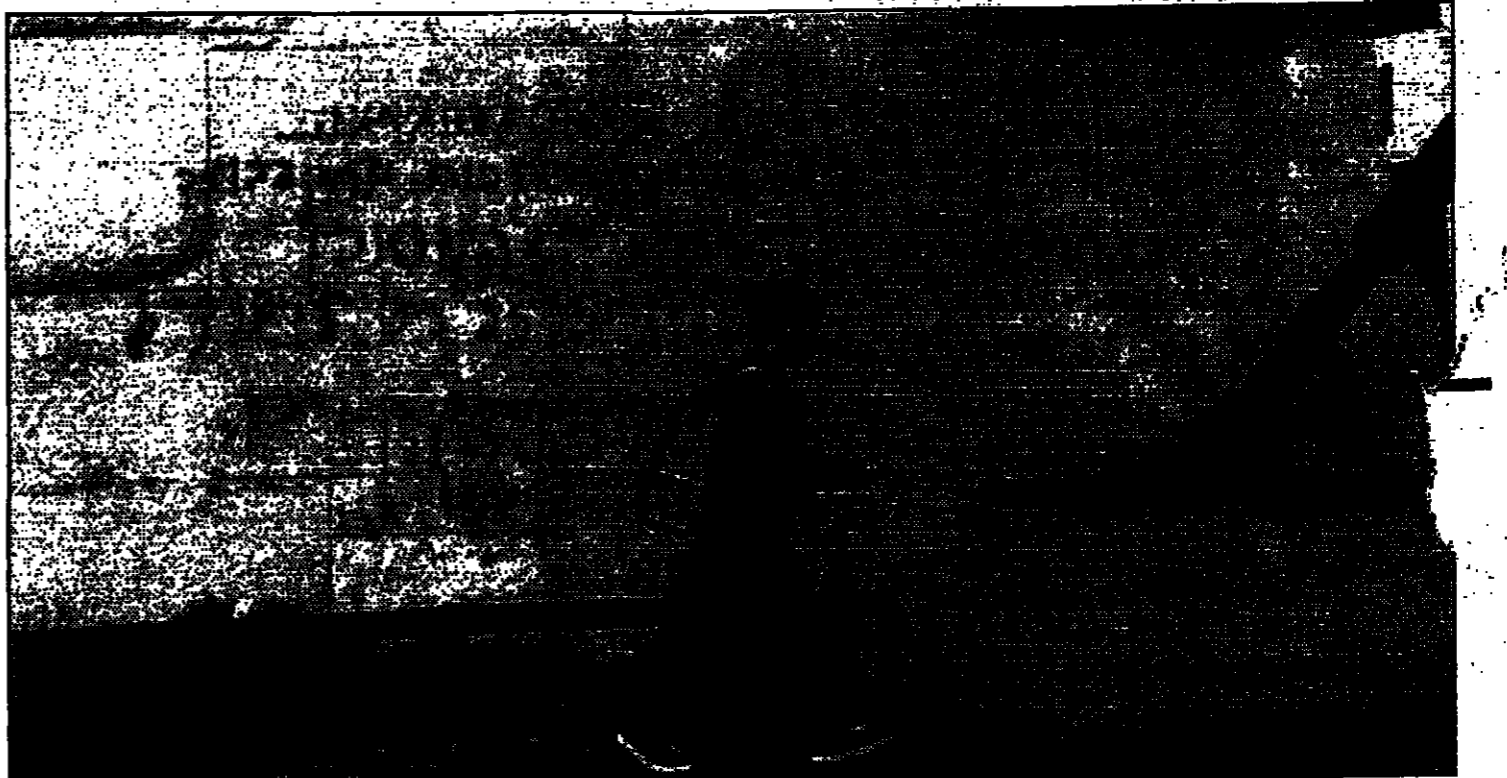
Meanwhile, additional diplomatic efforts were being pursued by government ministers attending the Cairo economic summit.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa and demanded that Azzam be freed immediately from Tura Prison, where he is reportedly being held - or that he be allowed to meet with the consul at the embassy.

Moussa said there were no new developments and that the legal authorities are examining the case, Meridor added.

At the same time, industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said he was continuing to raise the issue at every meeting with the Egyptians.

The abduction and arrest of Azzam were "a provocation on the part of an Egyptian citizen," Kara Ayoub, who is representing the interests of the Azzam family in Cairo, said. Ayoub told Israeli Radio that he was being "mistreat-



Graffiti appearing yesterday on Jerusalem's Davidka monument, allegedly signed by the extreme Kach movement, reads "Bibi you are following in Yitzhak the traitor's footsteps," and "Bibi is bad for the Jews." Police are investigating the writings, also sprayed on other walls in the capital. (Brian Hendler)

Business crowd ignoring Palestinians in Cairo

DAVID HARRIS
CAIRO

NO businessmen have approached Palestinian representatives with serious investment proposals during the first two days of the Cairo economic summit, Palestinian Authority Minister of Economy and Trade Maher Masri said yesterday.

"We have not received any investor asking for any participation," he said.

He also said the political situation is overshadowing the whole conference. "In every session we have attended, we have witnessed political factors underlying the discussions."

It was a mistake for Palestinian businessmen to stay away from

this year's conference, said Masri. "I would have liked them to be here to explain their hopes for the future," he said. "What they have done is send a signal to the conference by not attending. We would have had better representation."

Elsewhere there were mixed reports on how Israelis were received in the conference halls.

"Generally speaking, the atmosphere is less friendly than in Amman," said Micha Hertz, chairman of the Kibbutz Industries Association. "We're talking, that's it. But it's better than shooting."

Bill aims to restrict administrative detention of settlers

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Law Committee chairman Shaul Yabalom (National Religious Party) has submitted a private member's bill to make it harder to use administrative detentions against Jewish residents of the territories, in advance of a major discussion the committee is holding on the subject today.

Yabalom's bill would apply the law governing administrative detentions within Israel to Israeli citizens residing in the territories as well. At present, Jewish residents of the territories are governed by military law, which is much more stringent.

The bill would also make several changes in the Israeli law. First, it would permit the use of administrative detentions only in the case of "clear and present" danger. This is a more stringent standard than that currently in use, which requires only a "reasonable basis for believing" that the detainee would constitute a danger if not locked up.

It would also reduce the maximum detention period from six months to 60 days, and enable appeals of an administrative detention to be heard in open

court unless the court itself decides otherwise.

Meanwhile, Yabalom also stepped up his attack on Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair yesterday over the latter's refusal to attend today's committee session. Ben-Yair said he refused because he saw no reason for a parliamentary committee to be discussing administrative detentions - and if there was room for such a discussion, this would certainly not be the right time.

Yabalom said he found Ben-Yair's response unconscionable - especially in light of the fact that the attorney-general did agree to address the Bar Association on this subject. Surely, he said, the Knesset is as deserving of Ben-Yair's time and attention as the Bar is.

"I think it is his duty to appear before the committee on such a fundamental issue, where the values of human dignity and freedom clash with society's need to defend itself," Yabalom said.

Ben-Yair is sending State Attorney Edna Arbel and Uzi Fogelman, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, to the committee, however.

US marines train in Negev

HUNDREDS of US marines trained at an IDF base in the Negev this week, a US embassy official said yesterday.

"These are long-planned exercises as part of the long and productive security relationship with Israel, they go on from time to time," said Richard Scorza, a US embassy spokesman.

Scorza said the exercises are continuing but gave no other details. Ma'ariv reported that the desert base was chosen as a training location because of its distance from populated areas.

According to the paper, the US has sought remote training areas since the bombing of a US army barracks in Saudi Arabia last summer. (AP)

Deri claims he declared funds

IN a bid to counter bribery charges against him, Shas MK Aryeh Deri testified yesterday that in 1989, a year before the investigation against him began, his accountant had declared to the state comptroller that Deri had deposited \$50,000 with Yom Tov Rubin. Deri said he also had declared \$10,000 in cash that he had received from his wife's adoptive parents and kept in his home.

The defense presented a copy of this report, which it said had been stored in the accountant's office and never presented to the comptroller. Deri had no idea why the comptroller did not have a copy.

Deri also denied state witness Ya'acov Shmulevitz's claim that he had fraudulently allocated thousands of shekels to the Lev Benim yeshiva. He said he had not been involved in establishing the non-profit Society to Rehabilitate Prisoners, which passed the government grants it received on to the yeshiva.

Deri also told the court that when he became interior minister, he immediately realized that Sephardim were not getting their fair share and worked to correct that. (Itm)

The affair casts a dark shadow on the [question] of the attitude toward Israelis and the basic rights of Israeli citizens [visiting Egypt].

Liav Collins contributed to this report.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Driver convicted of girl's manslaughter

Jerusalem District Court convicted Valery Derfkin of manslaughter for running a red light on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan and killing Tam Tiel, 11, two-and-a-half years ago. Derfkin hit Tiel and Batya Steinberg, who were crossing the street, and then hit a car. Derfkin said he had not noticed that the light had changed. He is to be sentenced in a month-and-a-half. (Itm)

Woman murdered in hostel

Samira Nigiam, 32, of Nazareth, who worked as a housemother in a Mizpe Hoshiya hostel in the Lower Galilee, was murdered yesterday afternoon with a blunt object, police said. Another worker found her body in the hostel. He said she had lived at the hostel and took care of receiving guests, cleaning and organization. Police have not yet arrested any suspects in the case. (Itm)

Korman trial opens

The trial of Nahum Korman, the Hadar Betar security officer charged with manslaughter in the death of Hilmi Shoushi, 11, opened yesterday in Jerusalem District Court. After Korman's lawyer requested a copy of all the investigative material in the case, the trial was adjourned until a later date. (Itm)



The Directors and Staff extend sincere condolences to their colleague **Maurice Singer** on the death of his dear father **JACK SINGER** and wish all the family long life. Shiva will be held at 37/1 Rehov Arlosoroff, Ra'anana.

Chief Rabbi Lau: Hebron Jews cannot be forced out

HAIM SHAPIRO

ASHKENAZI Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau said yesterday that it is forbidden to evacuate Hebron's Jewish residents.

Lau's opinion, which he expressed to a visiting group of Emuna members from England, appears to be in direct opposition to a view expressed a day earlier by Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron. The Sephardi chief rabbi said that if the military authorities felt the lives of the Jewish inhabitants were in danger, they should be evacuated.

Lau said that evacuating the Jewish community would constitute a prize for the Arab rioters who massacred the Jewish population of the city in 1929. It would also constitute a precedent for other communities, he added.

Lau also recalled that late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin had promised Lau that Jewish settlements would not be evacuated. Lau also said Rabin had told him the Shavei Hebron yeshiva should remain where it is, beside Machpela Cave.

At the same time, Lau also said the residents of Hebron should obey the security forces and not oppose them, either physically or verbally.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's Page 4 story on the Knesset Anti-Drug Abuse Committee, the fifth paragraph should read: "But Dep.-Cmdr. Simon Peri, deputy head of the police drugs department, said decriminalization leads to a rise in addiction," and not as printed.

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Matza assumes duties as health minister

YEHOSSUA Matza, the fifth man to become health minister since 1992, told health system officials yesterday that he would devote all his time to the portfolio, and hoped to remain in the ministry "for eight years."

Arriving an hour late at his welcome ceremony due to an urgent Knesset vote, Matza later told health reporters that some of his predecessors may not have been so interested in the ministry, but looked upon it as a stepping stone to another job. However, he said he was "not going anywhere else."

He did not mention the reported arrangement whereby he would revert to being only an MK if Ya'acov Ne'eman were cleared of allegations and returned to the Justice Ministry, sending Yzahi Hanegbi back to the Health Ministry.

JUDY SIEGEL

Matza, a longtime Likud MK, Jerusalem deputy mayor, chairman of Shikun Ufrah and former Knesset Interior Committee chairman, said he previously had set his sights on the post of interior minister. However, he regarded rehabilitating the health system and obtaining adequate Treasury funding as being of prime importance.

Matza said he was aware that the ministry had a "stigma" of constant turnover and faced many difficult problems.

Hanegbi, speaking at the ceremony, said he was leaving with "mixed feelings... I came here with much lack of confidence, as I had never been a minister before. I am happy to be advanced to the prestigious post of justice minister, but sad to leave a

ministry I learned to love and appreciate."

As chairman of the ministerial legislation committee, he promised to help Matza push through health-related bills.

The audience, senior staff from ministry offices, hospitals, health funds and health service unions around the country, spoke among themselves with some cynicism over the frequent turnover of ministers and directors-general, each of whom spent months just learning the job and quickly went elsewhere.

One hospital director, who insisted on anonymity, said: "The condition of the health system is declining, and the ministers have not been dealing in ministry matters. The outgoing minister wasn't interested and didn't offer any solutions. I hope Matza will."



The Knesset grounds might be calm, but these people didn't travel there from all over the country to nap. They are taking part in a transcendental meditation for peace, security and national unity across from the Knesset yesterday. (IASSA/HAZARI)

Health Ministry okays MS treatment drug Copaxone

ISRAEL has become the first country in the world to approve the marketing of Copaxone, Teva's drug for reducing the severity and frequency of multiple sclerosis attacks. Final approval of the drug by the US Food and Drug Administration is due to be issued soon, following an advisory committee's recommendation in September.

Teva, which has invested tens of millions of dollars in the drug, which was developed over the past 30 years at the Weizmann Institute, has not yet set a price for the drug. Copaxone is injected every other

JUDY SIEGEL

day by patients with the repeating-remitting form of the neurological, auto-immune disease. Teva's Copaxone expert, Dr. Aharon Schwartz, said the Israeli authorization will advance registration of the drug in other countries.

Although the Health Ministry informed Teva on Tuesday night of its permission to begin marketing the drug, a government committee still must decide whether to include Copaxone in the list of medications which the health funds include in their basket of

health services. Another MS drug (unlike Copaxone, not specific to the disease) called Betaserone was included in the list after patients took the ministry to court, but there are strict criteria for its inclusion in treatment.

At present, several hundred MS patients are receiving Copaxone as part of clinical trials funded by Teva. The company spokeswoman said "none of these patients would be abandoned and have the drug taken away from them in the interim, but we hope the drug will soon be included in the list and supplied by the insurers."

Supreme Court considering retrial of convicted rapist in light of new evidence

THE Supreme Court will decide in the next few days whether to order a retrial for a man convicted of rape, whose accuser has since been videotaped saying the rape never happened.

David Guetta, 39, was convicted by the Tel Aviv District Court 10 months ago of raping a relative, who was a minor at the time. He was sentenced to three and a half years in prison. His wife then hired a private investigator to prove her husband's innocence, and the investigator managed to obtain a videotape of the girl saying she had lied in court about the rape. On the strength of this tape, Guetta is asking for a new trial.

However, the state insists that the girl's testimony in court was accurate, and that it is her videotaped statement to the private investigator, David Schneider, which is a lie.

According to the girl's version, which the state says is supported by the videotapes,

EVELYN GORDON

Schneider entrapped her into lying by underhand and possibly criminal tactics. The girl, who is now a soldier, claims that Schneider picked her up on her way to her army base one day and began paying court to her. He pretended to be a diamond merchant. Eventually, he told her he wanted to stage a robbery in order to collect the insurance money on his diamonds, and wanted a female accomplice who would be capable of lying to the insurance company and "withstanding the pressures of an investigation."

The girl said that by this time she was so in love with him that she would do anything, even lie, to gain his admiration. She therefore told him she would be his accomplice. To convince him of her suitability, she then told him that she had even gotten a man convicted of a rape that

never happened by lying to the police.

As proof that the girl was lying to Schneider and telling the truth in court, prosecutor Aviya Alef noted that the girl told Schneider she had never even had sex with Guetta at the time she accused him of rape. Guetta, however, had admitted to having sex with her; he merely claims it was with her consent.

Justices Aharon Barak, Mishael Cheshin and Dalia Dornier decided that they would review both the videotapes and the girl's later statement to the police. The defense is asking for a new trial, while the state wants the new evidence to be part of an appeal. The justices appeared to be leaning towards a compromise position, whereby the district court would conduct a mini-trial strictly on the credibility of the new evidence and its findings would then be sent back to the Supreme Court, which would consider them in the context of the appeal.

Treasury: Gov't earns NIS 2b. a year from car theft

THE government earns some NIS 2 billion a year from car thefts, the Knesset Economics Committee learned yesterday.

Treasury representative Gila Metzido explained to the committee that people whose cars are stolen generally buy new ones, and the purchase of any new car entails paying heavy taxes. Based on data collected by the Lapidot Committee, which showed that taxes on a new car come to 120% of the car's cost, and the fact that about 36,000 cars a year are stolen, this comes to a profit for the state of NIS 2 billion a year, she said.

"The committee is getting the impression that car thefts have become a profitable business for the government," said acting committee chairman Shalom Simhon (Labor), expressing the committee's shock.

"You could solve all the problems of the state budget by doubling the quantity of car thefts," suggested Ya'acov Enoch, representative of the Association of Car Importers, who admitted that the importers are also a major benefi-

EVELYN GORDON

ciary of thefts.

Simhon said the committee will recommend passing a law exempting those whose cars are stolen from paying taxes on replacements.

The committee was also surprised to discover that the police's car theft unit consists of only 26 policemen, even though the crime is endemic. Its budget, paid for entirely by the insurance companies, comes to NIS 4.5 million a year.

MK Effi Oshaya (Labor), who initiated the discussion, noted that 5,573 cars have been stolen in the Sharon region alone during the first eight months of the year. This is an increase of 35% compared to the same period last year, he said.

Oshaya said this increase can largely be attributed to the region's proximity to the autonomous Palestinian regions. He recently met with the Palestinian governor of Tulkarm, he said, and the latter told him that the Palestinian Police were aware of joint Israeli-Palestinian rings that routinely steal cars in Israel and smuggle them into the autonomous regions.

Statistics show women key victims of poverty

THE feminization of poverty is becoming increasingly acute social welfare experts said this week at a Council of Women's Organizations in Israel seminar on Women in Poverty.

Notwithstanding legislation against gender discrimination in the job market, women continue to be victimized, said Mina Westman, chairperson of the Small Business Authority's committee for female entrepreneurship. Women comprise 53.6 percent of job seekers, she said, adding that women are paid only 65% of what men doing the same jobs receive. She also noted that 70% of minimum wage earners are women.

Equality is set down in the statute books, but isn't given much expression in practice, said National Insurance Institute Director-General Yossi Tamir, who quoted additional statistics to support the contention that women bear the bulk of the poverty burden.

Less than 10% of the male work force is employed in part-time jobs he said, whereas the ratio for women is around 32%. Similarly, 14% of men, compared to 32% of women, in full-time employment earn the minimum wage of NIS 2,500. At the other end of the scale, men account for 10% of salaried workers earning over NIS 15,000 per month, while only 1% of women are in this bracket.

Opponents receiving the minimum allotment of around NIS 1,000 per month, 20% are women and 11% are men. There are 200,000 households living below the poverty line, and of these 80,000 are those of single parent families. The overwhelming majority of the latter are headed by women, Tamir said.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said he was surprised at the high percentage of women earning minimum wage. He pledged that a ministry committee on poverty would give special attention to helping impoverished women.

Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Marina Solodkin called on impoverished women to follow the example of Russian immigrants and set up a party which would give them political power.

KNESSET BRIEFS

Bill canceling direct election of PM fails
A joint bill by MKs Yossi Beilin (Labor) and Uzi Landau (Likud) calling for the abolition of the direct election of the prime minister failed to pass its preliminary reading in the Knesset yesterday when it gathered only 32 votes in favor, compared to 50 against and 1 abstention. Landau's vote in favor of the bill was the sole green light among the red ones lit up by his Likud colleagues on the electronic voting panel. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was present for the vote.

Liat Collins

Pensioners caucus to fight budget cuts
Eighteen MKs from across the political spectrum have joined the parliamentary caucus for pensioners. MKs Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) and Yossi Katz (Labor) are among the caucus heads.

The lobby declared that its first mission is to persuade the government to back down on the intended budget cuts which would affect senior citizens.

Liat Collins

Group launches information drive about MIAs
The International Coalition for Missing Soldiers has launched an information campaign in the Knesset focusing on the MIAs from the Battle of Sultan Ya'acoub in 1982: Zachary Baumel; Zvi Feldman; and Yehuda Katz. Two Christian women from Holland who gathered 200,000 signatures calling for the return of the MIAs met with MK Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) raised a motion to the agenda marking Baumel's 36th birthday.

Liat Collins

Nearly half of TV owners don't pay license
An estimated 40%-50% of television owners do not pay their license fees, Adi Hadar, head of the Israel Broadcasting Authority's audit committee, told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said in response that he would submit a bill to have the IBA funded out of taxes, as the license system - which involves inspectors going door to door to see if people have paid - is both ineffective and intrusive.

Evelyn Gordon

Court refuses to hear Fishler's petition

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice rejected a petition by Pinhas Fishler yesterday against his dismissal as head of the Prime Minister's Bureau, saying this was a matter for the labor courts rather than the High Court.

At the same time, the court lifted the publication ban which has been in place since the petition was filed.

In the petition, Fishler said he was asked to resign by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, on the grounds that he had not passed a

Court backs decision not to probe sponsors of ad blaming Netanyahu for murder

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday upheld Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair's decision not to open a criminal investigation against the author of an advertisement which indirectly accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of responsibility for the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The advertisement, which appeared on the front page of *Ha'aretz* on June 18 - the day Netanyahu's government was sworn in - consisted of a passage from Kings I, chapter 21, which describes how King Ahab obtained a vineyard from a man who did not want to sell it: Queen Jezebel persuaded two men to swear falsely that the owner, Naboth, had committed a capital crime, and after he was executed, Ahab took possession of the vineyard. In response, God sends Elijah the Prophet to curse Ahab.

"And thou shalt speak unto [Ahab], saying: Thus saith the Lord: Hast thou killed and also taken possession?" the passage concludes.

The advertisement then added: "This was placed as a painful reminder to the public and to those who take God's name in vain... upon the swearing in of a new government in Israel, 230 days after the murder of Yitzhak Rabin."

Ben-Yair said he saw no reason to open a criminal investigation for sedition or libel against those who placed the advertisement - a group called "We Will Not Forget," headed by businessman David Moshevit - both because there was not enough evidence and because there was no public interest in prosecuting. The evi-

dence problem, he said, was due to the fact that the advertisement did not explicitly accuse any specific person of any specific act, and could therefore "be given different interpretations."

Furthermore, he said, the importance of freedom of speech made it wrong to prosecute unless the speech in question created a clear and present danger of violence, which the advertisement did not.

Justices Theodor Orr, Iova Strasberg-Cohen and Dorit Beinisch, ruling on a petition against this decision by attorney Yehiyah Be'eri, agreed that Ben-Yair's judgment regarding the importance of free speech was reasonable. Because of this, they said, they did not even have to consider his claim that the advertisement was too ambiguous to support a criminal charge.

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Shelling interrupts first UN aid handout in Goma

GOMA, Zaire (Reuters) - Aid workers yesterday resumed distribution of the first outside supplies to reach eastern Zaire since fighting began after shelling of the hospital in Goma had sent them running for cover.

Held up by two days of talks with suspicious local rebels, a group of UN and other agencies had finally begun to unload 10 tons of food and supplies when shells slammed into and near the hospital compound. No injuries were reported.

"It is a signal of what things could be like if we want to mount a major operation in Goma," said Michelle Quintaglio, a UN World Food Program (WFP) spokeswoman.

But she said sending aid from Rwanda via Goma to 1.2 million stranded refugees is still the only real option. A UN plan to send it through remote Kisangani, deep in Zaire on the other side of the front-line, is unfeasible.

"It would be a logistical nightmare," Quintaglio said.

Canada is offering to lead a multi-lateral military force to bring in the aid to the desperate Rwandan and Burundian Hutus. UN leaders say it could be in place by the weekend, but Security Council approval depends on US support.

France, ceding the lead role to Canada because of Rwandan and rebel hostility, said it could have 600 paratroopers in Zaire 24 hours after UN approval and 600 more a day later.

But it said Washington also had to send its own troops to join up to

10,000 from at least 12 nations, including Spain, Italy, South Africa, and six other African countries.

"The United States must participate," government spokesman Alain Lamassouire said in Paris.

After days of hesitation, the US was yesterday expected to announce it will take part in the international force, US officials said.

"That is currently under very extensive discussion at the highest levels of government today, and I think an announcement will shortly be made about our intention to join the international force," Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs Tim Wirth said at a World Food Summit in Rome.

Seven African states are preparing to send troops to the force, the 54-nation Organization of African Unity said.

Emuna Bonino, the European Union's humanitarian aid commissioner, urged the world not to delay a second further.

Thousands of refugees, some cut off from help since local Tutsis rebelled a month ago, are believed to have died already from thirst and now cholera in the hills where they have fled.

The real headaches - how to take in the aid, how to tempt the refugees home, and what to do with armed fighters among them - will come once the force is agreed.

Zaire's Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo, who had insisted aid pass through territory under his government's control, said Zaire is ready to show "flexibility" to ensure emer-

gency food reaches its civilians and the refugees.

Kengo, speaking after talks with UN special envoy Raymond Chretien, said Zaire accepted the idea of the Canadian-led force, as long as it helps all refugees return home.

Most refugees ran to Zaire in 1994 to escape a victorious Tutsi army which put an end to the genocide by Hutus of some 800,000 Tutsis in Rwanda. They fear reprisals for their role in the slaughter if they go home, as Rwanda, Zaire, and everyone else is urging them to.

Hutu gunmen among them have intimidated any who tried to leave.

The shelling in Goma, previously a base for a two-year relief operation that cost \$1 million a day, but failed to disarm the refugees, showed the risk of sending any multinational force without the confidence of all sides.

It erupted after rebels, who control major eastern towns in the biggest Zairean revolt for decades, fired at a plane over the town, saying they suspected French troops were on board.

Defense officials in Paris denied the allegation.

Rwanda and the rebels accuse France of a secret agenda to restore Zairean authority in the east and help the Hutus, whose flight to Zaire in 1994 was aided by French intervention.

"If French troops arrive in Goma... we will fire on them and resist them," rebel commandant Andre Kasasase said.

Delhi crash puts ex-Soviet aircraft, crew in spotlight

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The collision of a Kazakh Ilyushin cargo plane with a Saudi jumbo jet over India on Tuesday has thrown a harsh spotlight on the safety of thousands of former Soviet aircraft operating around the world.

There was no word yesterday of what caused the world's worst mid-air collision, feared to have killed some 350 people.

The lack of modern radar at New Delhi air traffic control might have been a factor. So might controller or pilot error.

Officials in Almaty rejected speculation about failings in the Il-76TD jet, owned by deeply indebted Kazakhstan National Airways (KazAir), or that pilot Cheriponov's command of English, the international language of aviation, might be at fault.

All Il-76 freighters, whose bulky, high-winged, four-engine form has become familiar across the world's air cargo routes in recent years, are equipped with gauges in feet and knots, as well as the Soviet standard metric equipment.

The head of Russia's air traffic control center, Robert Urtshev, said the planes also carry collision warning equipment - although some pilots have a habit of switching it off.

Airline officials said the pilot spoke good English.

Aviation experts say the flood of former Soviet crews into the wider world after the end of the Cold War has, however, been accompanied by poor standards of communication. Russian was

the lingua franca of air transport in the communist bloc.

KazAir's troubles - its own government owners slammed its safety standards before formally shutting it down in August over massive debts - are far from unique in the former Soviet Union.

Many of the hundreds of other "babyflots" spawned by the carve up of the Soviet carrier Aeroflot after 1991 have been involved in crashes and have seen questions raised over safety.

Cash problems, meaning poor maintenance and over-worked crews, have been blamed for a mounting number of crashes in Moscow's old empire and, increasingly, abroad as cut-rate freighters carve out a niche on the world's air lanes.

The doomed Delhi jet was at least the fourth fatal Il-76 crash this year. Only one came down in Russia - on the far eastern Kamchatska peninsula in April. In August, 10 crew died on a Russian Il-76 near Belgrade after reported mechanical failure. In June, a Ukrainian crew perished on take-off at Kinshasa, Zaire.

Other cargo craft have had problems too. The Zairean capital was the site of one of the world's worst air disasters in January, when a Russian Antonov An-32 smashed into a marketplace on take-off, killing about 350. The two pilots are in jail.

Just last month, six people died when an An-12 slid off a runway in Angola. And an An-124 freighter came down last month near Turin, killing two of the crew and two Italian villagers.

Loss of life has been even greater on passenger craft. More than 140 people died when a Tupolev Tu-154 slammed into a mountain on Norway's Arctic island of Spitsbergen in August.

The US Federal Aviation Authority said last December after the crash of a Tu-154 in the Far East that Russian airlines were "minimally meeting requirements" for international air safety.

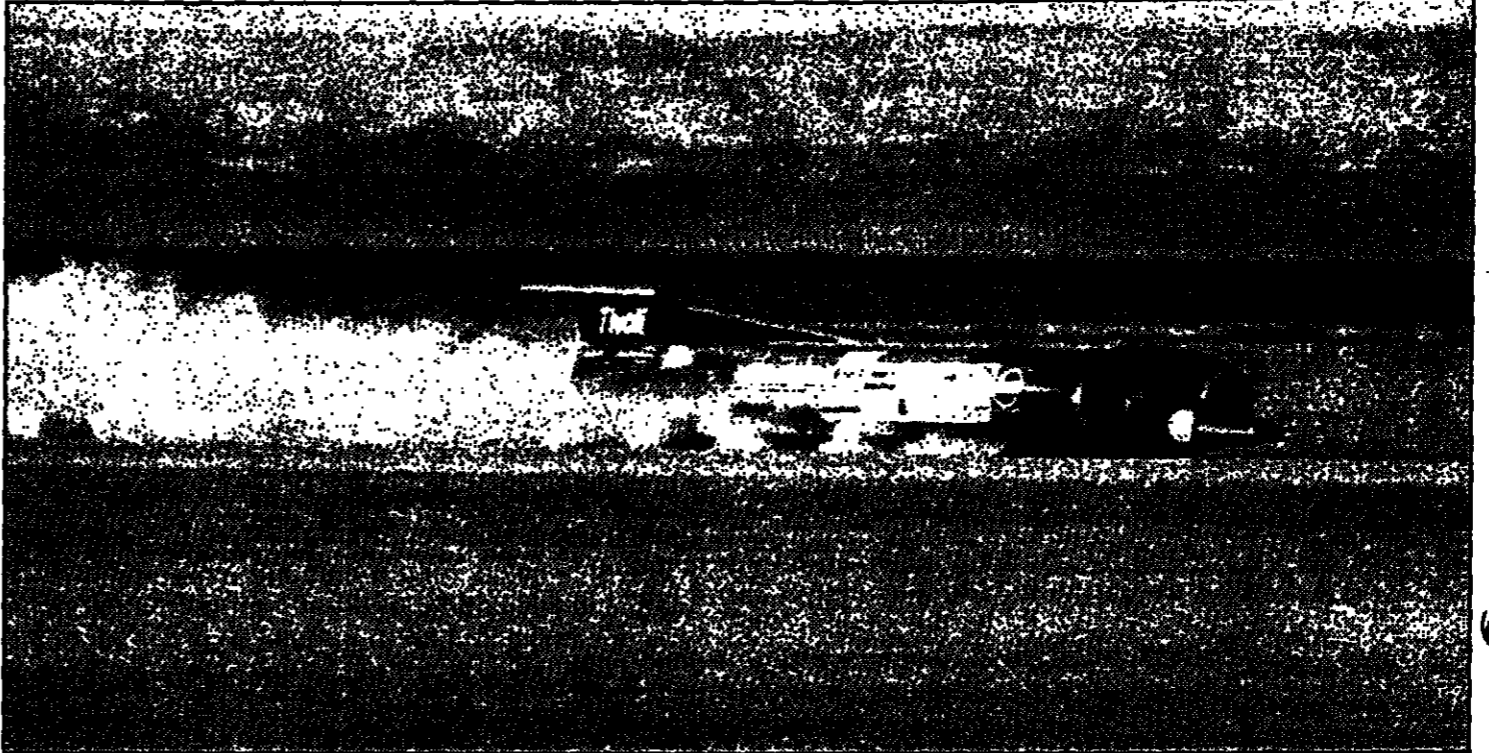
The most notorious crash of recent years was in March 1994, when 70 people died after an Aeroflot pilot allowed his teenage son to send an Airbus A310 crashing into the Siberian tundra.

Yet against the bleak picture, reinforced by the dilapidated cabins and poor service which greet travellers in the region, planes and crews are generally of a fundamentally high caliber.

The Il-76, whose distinctive glass nose cone belies its original mission as a military tank transporter, is a highly maneuverable and powerful craft, whose mainly ex-air force pilots are trained to out-dive, out-climb, and outweave incoming missiles.

Landing in a Russian airfield can be a mixture of the sublime and the ridiculous. The seats creak. The baggage lockers rattle. But more often than not, snow and ice notwithstanding, passengers cannot tell just when the wheels hit the ground.

Years of landings on makeshift Afghan airfields or pitching carriers in the North Atlantic make Soviet pilots some of the smoothest in the business. Unfortunately, today's money worries can pose different dangers from ocean storms or enemy fire.



Britain's jet-powered Thrust SSC roars across the desert of southern Jordan yesterday, in its first trial for an attempt to break the world land speed record. RAF pilot Andy Green drove the car up to a modest 260 miles per hour, a fraction of the speed it is aiming to reach. (Reuters)

Russia sees threat to ties with US over spy row

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Moscow-Washington ties face serious harm in a spy row over the arrest of an ex-Soviet KGB agent in the US last month. Russian intelligence officials said yesterday.

Kremlin spymasters are furious over the former agent's arrest, on a New York visit after openly acknowledging his old profession. They accuse their American counterparts of breaking "rules of the game" of espionage between the two super powers.

"We would not like to do anything to dent the relationships between the two countries or even turn the two countries themselves, if we will have to retaliate in an equitable way," said Tatyana Amolis, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Intelligence Service (VR).

Samolis said a response could be proved this week by the Federal Security Service (FSB), responsible for counterintelligence.

She said the case is a breach of an understanding between rival spy agencies not to hound retired intelligence officers.

Moscow's view is that the US has violated an unwritten, gentlemanly code of honor in international espionage allowing former agents to travel freely.

"If Russia did the same to an American ex-spy, the US Sixth Fleet would be here on the Moscow River," Samolis said. She said Russia would wait until today, when Vladimir Galkin will be arraigned for the second time in a federal court in Massachusetts on charges he conspired to steal top secret information about the US "Star Wars" program.

"We have not yet run out of patience, we still expect common sense to prevail, but we will see what the court says. Our demands remain the same - his unconditional release and return to Moscow," Samolis said.

The 50-year-old former spy, who had clearly stated his former profession in his application for a US visa, was arrested by the FBI on October 29 at John F. Kennedy airport in New York. Galkin was ordered returned to jail after the first court hearing on Tuesday.

Russia's Foreign Ministry demanded Galkin's release earlier this week and labelled the case "a provocation."

"There has never been such a case. It is a provocation which originated out of nowhere, while the United States gave no reasons for such action," Samolis said. "Galkin is not a criminal, but he was lured into the United States in the same way the Interpol treats criminals," she said, referring to the fact that the warrant for his arrest was issued before his visa to the US.

Political analysts have suggested that former senior CIA officers might be legitimate targets for retaliation while on private visits to Russia.

"The FBI cannot ignore the fact that former US spies working in Russia will face similar measures," Samolis said, commenting that the case may reflect differences between the CIA and the FBI.

Russian paper offers 3 million rubles for best love letter to a politician

MOSCOW (AP) - Russians who love their leaders now have a chance to show their feelings nationwide and even date their idols - thanks to a newspaper contest for the best love letter to a politician.

Moskovsky Komsolets, the nation's largest circulation daily, started the contest Wednesday with a letter addressed to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, 58, a sturdy Soviet-era technocrat.

"They say a woman loves with her ears and a man with his eyes," Irena Rodionov wrote to Chernomyrdin. "I love you with both my eyes and ears."

The newspaper didn't mention her age or occupation.

"When I see you, so calm and stocky with a glint of cheerful shrewdness in your eyes, I think that one standing behind you would feel as if they behind a stone wall," Rodionov wrote in her letter, which the daily published under a blaring headline. "In bed with Chernomyrdin: Three million for love."

Moskovsky Komsolets promised the winner would receive three million rubles (NIS 1770) and have a rendezvous with the addressee. It promised to regularly publish such letters, noting that a "little touch of eroticism isn't forbidden."

"Sometimes I would lay my boy to bed, sit alone and dream of your strong and tender hands and warm voice," she said, carefully adding that she understands her dream can never come true and making excuses to Chernomyrdin's family.

The newspaper commented, "If the country leaders may arouse such emotions even with one person, it means things are not that hopeless here."

Thousands homeless in Peru after quake kills 8

NAZCA, Peru (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of people spent the night on the streets after their houses were destroyed by a powerful earthquake that hit southern Peru on Tuesday, killing at least eight people and injuring more than 500.

The hardest-hit towns were along the Pacific coast, at Nazca, 460 km south of the capital, Lima, where 300 were injured, and Ica, 160 km further north, where another 200 were injured, officials said on yesterday.

Nazca experienced at least 200 aftershocks, including one late on Tuesday that measured 4.2 on the Richter scale, Luis Vilca of the Peruvian Geophysics Institute said. The US Geological Survey said the main quake registered 7.3 on the Richter scale.

The army and police flew tents, blankets and food to Nazca after the quake left 25,000 houses uninhabitable, Mayor Luz Torres Zegarra said. But most of the estimated population of 40,000, who were left without light, water or working telephone lines, had not

received help.

"We have not had any help at all. There are 300 of us in this shantytown and nobody has eaten. Our kids have not had lunch, dinner, or breakfast," said one man in Nazca.

Prime Minister Alberto Pandolfi, the leading minister in the country during President Alberto Fujimori's nine-day official visit to Southeast Asia, said he was flying to affected mining zones, where miners may have been trapped by the quake. "We want to know what is the actual situation in these mining areas," he said.

Fujimori told Peruvian radio from Japan he had given instructions for operations to concentrate on rescuing people trapped in mine tunnels and under collapsed buildings.

In Nazca, medical staff attended 100 injured people, seven of whom were still in serious condition, said Fermín Caceres, director of the hospital. "The majority are women, children, and the elderly who could not run away from the falling walls," he said.

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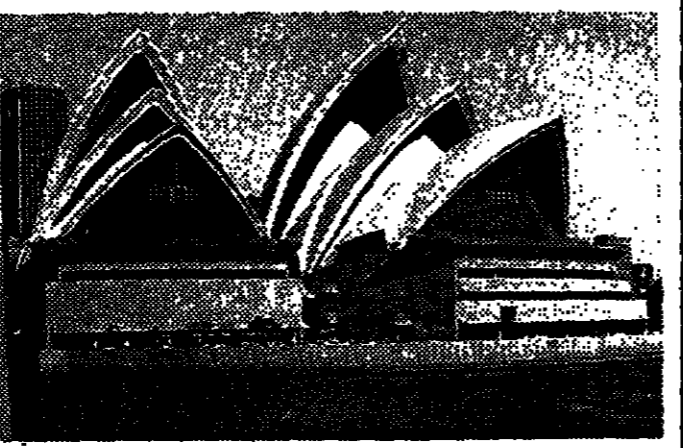
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Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 20 East 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.

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LIST OF NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION...

The five symbols of proper laundering

CAVEAT EMPTOR!
RUTHIE BLUM

RECENTLY, I received a letter from a puzzled consumer asking me to explain the symbols on garment labels which provide laundering instructions. In the letter there were five examples of such symbols. Each was totally familiar to me. None was one I could actually define. Even my attempts at applying a little common sense to decipher them proved fruitless.

An iron with two horizontal dots in its center is a clear symbol of... what? That the garment can be ironed? Should be ironed? May under no circumstances be ironed? A triangle with an X-mark through its center means... what? The garment need not yield to oncoming traffic?

Luckily, the Ministry of Industry and Trade was happy to provide me with a color poster of these symbols, a bit reminiscent of the chart on which potential drivers are drilled before receiving a learner's permit. There are five categories of symbols on this poster: laundering, bleaching, ironing, drying and dry cleaning.

*** Laundering.** The symbol is a green, square-bottomed bowl with wavy lines at the top to look like water, with a green line underneath, and the number 95 inside of the bowl. This means that the garment should/can be machine washed in boiling temperatures. The same symbol, in yellow without a line underneath, with the number 60 primed inside, means that the garment should/can be washed in hot water. The same symbol, again in yellow with the number 60 inside, but this time with a line underneath, means (are you ready for this?) That the garment can be washed in hot water, with "medium mechanical activity," a "gradual cooling rinse" prior to spin (wring) cycle and a "limited spin."

The same yellow symbol, no underline, with the number 40 inside, means: machine wash in warm water. The same yellow bowl with the number 40, this time with a line underneath (another tongue-twister), means machine wash in warm water, moderate cycle, gradual cooling rinse prior to spin, limited spin. A yellow bowl, no underline, with a hand outstretched to the right: hand wash. A red bowl, no underline, with an X-mark through the center: do not wash!

*** Bleaching.** The symbol: A green triangle with "Cl" inside. This means that the fabric

can be bleached with chlorine or any other bleach. The same symbol, in yellow, with an X-mark through the center: no chlorine bleach (other bleaches may be used). A red triangle with an X-mark through the center: do not bleach.

*** Ironing.** The symbol: a green iron with three horizontal dots in the center: iron at high temperature, 210° Celsius. A yellow iron with two dots: moderately (150°) hot iron. A yellow iron with a single dot: iron at low temperature, 110°. A red iron with an X-mark through the center: do not iron.

*** Drying.** The symbol: a green square (resembling a dryer), with a circle in which there are two horizontal black dots. This means regular drying in a dryer. The same square and circle in yellow with a single dot in the center means limited drying in a dryer. A yellow square, with a yellow circle at center, and a yellow X-mark: No drying in a dryer. A yellow square with a semi-circle resembling a clothesline: Hang to dry (after wringing). A yellow square with three vertical lines in the center means hang dry, no wringing. A yellow square with a single horizontal line in the center: Dry by laying out flat (stretch to original size while still damp).

*** Dry Cleaning.** The symbol: A green circle. This means the garment should be dry cleaned. A red circle with an X-mark through it means that the garment should not be cleaned with any organic solvent.

I hadn't realized one needed a doctorate in geometry just to do the laundry. What I do realize is that any consumer complaint to a shop or a dry cleaner relating to textiles damaged after cleaning can be thrown out of the window if the consumer failed to follow any of the rules spelled out in these symbols.

Bezzq tidbit: Three (personal) cheers for the phone company. All orders for new lines, or transferring of lines, can be done by fax by dialing 198. I made two requests by fax, which were very quickly processed and everybody I spoke to was gracious and efficient.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Say 'aah' at the dentistry museum

WHO said dentistry isn't colorful? Who said dentists aren't imaginative or funny?

Consider the saga of Painless Parker, a featured character at Baltimore's new National Museum of Dentistry. He was a restless young dentist who found Philadelphia too small for his ambitions, and went West.

Parker, a 1872 graduate of the Philadelphia Dental College, probably had a talent for dentistry. He certainly had one for self-promotion, not to mention a weakness for blithe exaggeration.

He was a one-man carnival who rode the trail in a big horse-drawn wagon and occasionally advertised his services on the wide side of an elephant. But he also knew how to defend himself against customers who naively took seriously the impossible promise suggested by his name.

He wasn't always Painless. He was named Edgar Parker, but had his name legally changed to elude lawsuits for false advertisement, which seemed to follow him like tumbleweeds.

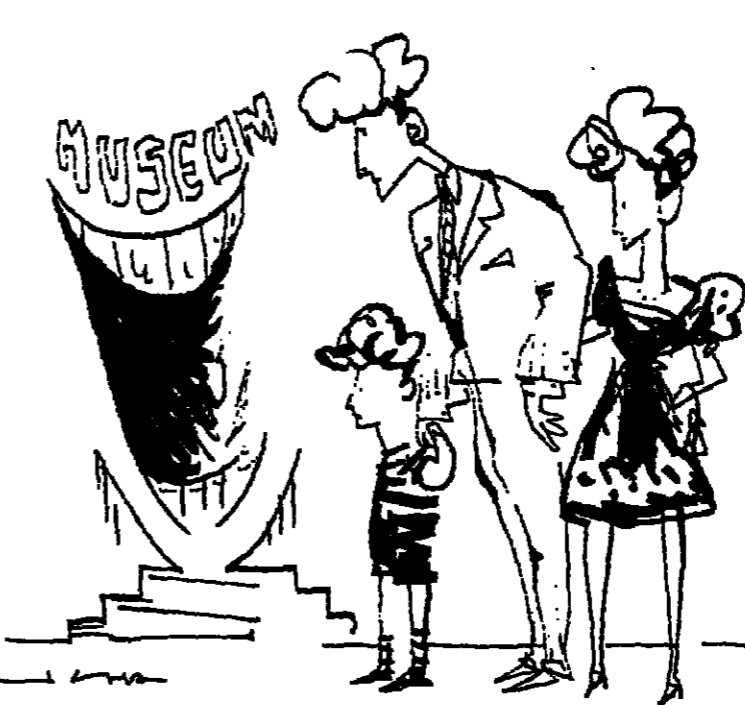
He made \$3 million and retired to California. Other than people such as Painless Parker, and Zane Grey, who was also a dentist, maybe dentistry as a profession is a little monochromatic.

Maybe it is "oft-maligned," as suggested in the literature on the new dentistry museum, which recently opened in Baltimore, Maryland. Maybe it is boring.

Ben Z. Swanson, the dentist in charge of the museum, admitted that most of the humor of dentistry is not generated by dentists - which led him to express a concern that fellow practitioners visiting the place might "think we put dentistry in a bad light."

That was never the intention. The people at the University of Maryland Dental School concluded that levity would be the best way to bring in the 40,000 or more visitors they anticipate each year.

"If we did it as a [serious] dental museum, dentists would enjoy it, but the public wouldn't come,"



Swanson said. Nor would parents bring their children, and it is children the museum is trying to reach, by giving them an inkling of the benefits that flow from a regimen of good oral hygiene.

Swanson said. He's right. There are things to see for everybody. George Washington's last real tooth is there, as are his four false dentures (except the one he was buried with), none of which was made of wood; Queen Victoria's sealers are on display, with their mother-of-pearl

handles and silver mounts fashioned to look like miniature crowns, appropriate instruments to penetrate the imperial mouth upon which the sun never set.

There are the world-famous Motor Molars, a chewing machine invented to test the strength and durability of materials used to restore teeth. Turn them on: They are hypnotic, like those wind-up plastic teeth that go yaky-yak.

There are movies to watch, like *Teeth Feast*, which shows the strong-jawed of both sexes doing extraordinary things with their teeth. Things like water-skiing, pulling locomotives, painting pictures, writing letters, hanging perilously from great heights.

There is the Tooth Jukebox. Push a button and view your favorite singing toothpaste commercial from days gone by. Like that supercilious little kid who ran up to the camera shouting, "Look, Ma! No cavities!" There is a grotesque, always appealing to children four life masks with teeth altered in ways different cultures found attractive, like sharpened to points, blackened, gold-studded and knocked out.

Also, Etotica: Consider the tongue scraper, a popular device in India and points East, and all the rage in England and France in the 18th century, but which never became popular in the United States.

Swanson, a dental historian as well as practitioner, who collected many of the artifacts on display in the museum, says he once wrote a paper on the use of tongue scrapers for the American Dental Association's journal. It prompted his wife to take up the use of the device.

Mrs. Swanson's still at it, every day brushing the papillae of the tongue.

Maybe she'll start a trend. There is more on show: A toothbrush collection, dental chairs through the years, tooth extractors and a selection of early dentures, some with springs on them, which must have made it difficult for the wearer to keep his or her mouth shut.

(Los Angeles Times)

A few dental facts

Did you know that teeth first appeared on this earth in the hinge of mollusk shells? That was 420 million years ago, a long way from the toothy excess of Liberace.

Dentures were first made in Japan, in 1500, from wood. The first users of toothbrushes (fashioned of twigs and roots) were the Hindus, about 6,000 years ago. Dentists invented chewing gum (who else?), the golf tee (no doubt?) and cotton candy (wouldn't you know?).

St. Apollonia, the Egyptian maid who declined to renounce her Christianity, had all her teeth yanked out - without anesthetic. She then thwarted her executioners by killing herself. Apollonia is the patron saint of dentists. There is no patron saint of dental patients.

A velvet rainbow

IT is difficult to decide whether the unevenness of the Hagara collection is deliberate, or whether designer Hagar Allembik was insufficiently fastidious when putting it all together. If she were a novice, one might say she was looking for direction. But Allembik is no greenhorn. She is one of the country's top-caliber designers - a fact borne out by several of the garments on display. Nonetheless, one gets the feeling that she couldn't be bothered wading out the less-successful items, which are totally out of harmony with the better pieces.

Velvet is the mainstay of the collection, relieved only occasionally by satin and chiffon. Borrowing from the nursery rhyme, one might say of Allembik's creative muse that when she's good, she's very, very good and when she's bad, she's horrid. But that may be a misjudgment. Perhaps Allembik is sufficiently savvy to know that the upmarket hippies to whom the Nineties, while happy to wear her label, are not into clan. The black, exquisitely shaped, sophisticated evening and lounge wear is not for them. That's what their mothers are buying. What they want is

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

color - lots of color - and Allembik is giving it to them in rainbow and tone-on-tone creations in smooth, sensuous velvets, crushed velvets, cut velvets and velvet lace.

The black-and-white filled and plumbed concoctions are romantically demure, while those which are strictly black or a dark chocolate brown are stark and dramatic. Allembik's color knows no limits - but perhaps she should have stopped before she got to the iridescent mustard.

Many of the tunics and dresses are characterized by cunning from drape effects which can be moved every which way to suit the individual style of the wearer. Pregnant brides - even those in the ninth month - will have no trouble in finding a suitable Hagara gown, and women who are not in that condition, but don't want to be constricted by their clothes, will also find plenty from which to choose.

Orthodox women will find that necklines are high enough and

sleeves long enough to meet with the most stringent halachic requirements, while their secular sisters who want to reveal a little flesh will discover, several items which will afford them that opportunity.

While some of the velvet offerings are absolutely gorgeous, others are garish. The color-wash effects which are quite intriguing in muted form on chiffon.

All the garments displayed at the benefit show which Hagara gave in aid of the Association for Victims of Sexual Assault were worn with marching or contrast-toned velvet mules specially created by Naot Shoes. Mules and other chunky footwear may be highly fashionable, but they're not aesthetic. In this case they emphasized the flaws in the collection and detracted from the finesse.

There's something very seductive about velvet. It's a fabric that women - like little girls too for that matter - like to wear, and if the applause at the end of the Hagara showing was indicative, we'll be experiencing the soft touch of velvet almost everywhere.



Velvet is the mainstay of Hagara Allembik's new collection.

(Sivan Faraj)

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

GLASS-TOP FATIO TABLE - NIS 200. 02-678-4836.

ELECTRIC HEATER - new, radiator-styled, oil-filled, NIS 250. 02-525-9070.

GRACO PAK 'N' PLAY PORTABLE CRIB - used once, NIS 350. 09-862-6112.

GENERAL ELECTRIC DRYER - large, needs repair, NIS 200 o.b.o. 03-523-3418.

ELECTRIC RANGE - with self-cleaning oven, 110/220V, requires high voltage, like new, NIS 100. 08-941-8321.

MOTORCYCLE HELMET - for child passenger to age 10, full face with visor, top quality, NIS 150. 09-774-8790.

CAR ROOF RACK - 119x116 cm, NIS 350. 03-933-7879.

STROLLER - good condition, 6 months to 4 years, NIS 180. 02-641-9612.

TENNIS RACKET - Dunlop Power Masseur, used once, wide body, aluminum, NIS 175. David, 06-768688, after 9 am.

HEBREW AT YOUR FASE - book and cassettes, like new, NIS 90; black floor lamp, good condition, NIS 100. 03-561-6683.

PHONEMATE - answering machine with remote receiver, NIS 200. 02-671-4210. NS.

WRITING TABLE WITH SHELVES - NIS 230. 02-566-5356, 052-401929, NS.

MECHANICAL CAMERA - new, Seagull 35 mm, NIS 350. 02-651-3919, NS.

2 ROBES - fancy, floor length, one pink, one black and yellow floral, NIS 150 each; Epilady, NIS 50. 02-623-4984, Debby.

JOHNNIE WALKER - 1 liter, Black Label, NIS 175; 3-seat couch cover, blue, new - never used, NIS 119. 02-997-4395, NS.

DRESSER DRAWERS - NIS 150; various photography books, NIS 200. 02-673-2328.

HIGH-TOP SNEAKERS - black, size 44 (US 10), NIS 250. 02-586-6188, NS.

WALKMAN SONY FM/AM STEREO - cassette player with graphic equalizer, NIS 200; Walkman FM/AM stereo, NIS 50. 02-586-0113.

3-SECTION BREAKFRONT - NIS 280. 02-500-0056.

POSTER - of Tobiasse, with frame, 86x66 cm, NIS 350. 02-571-0263.

AMCOR 13 DLX - perfect working order, NIS 350. 02-673-8814, NS.

3 BIG MEN'S SUITS - including made-to-measure, American size pants 42, jackets 48, perfect condition, NIS 100 each. 02-581-9079.

CASTRO CONVERTIBLE - omanon, converts to single bed, NIS 150; car-seat covers, new, NIS 200. 02-673-5294, NS.

WOMEN'S KEDS - white leather, size 42.5, never worn, NIS 99. 02-651-8157, NS.

VIDEO/PHOTO TRIPOD - never used, new in box, NIS 150; Roadstar car radio/cassette player, NIS 50. 02-673-4275, NS.

COLOR TV - NIS 350. 02-673-6610.

SINGLE BED - with frame, good condition, NIS 270. 02-643-1933.

CAKE DECORATING TIPS AND BAGS - Wilton, new, NIS 50 for set. 02-641-6587.

2 TV RACKS - like new, wall mounted, one white, one grey, NIS 60 each. 02-623-2201.

G.E. WALKIE-TALKIE - new in box, NIS 100; L'Oreal anti-wrinkle cream, NIS 40; L'Oreal moisturizer, NIS 40. P.O.B. 71159, Jerusalem.

FISHER-PRICE WORK BENCH - good condition, NIS 200. 02-535-3796, NS.

4 HANDBAGS - like new, Pierre Cardin, beige, large, NIS 100; Gucci, black, NIS 100; Liz Claiborne, brown, NIS 75; Italian leather, beige, NIS 75. 02-656-0704.

SOFA BED - beige, good clean condition, double bed, NIS 350. 02-623-2201.

MAGAZINES - Good Housekeeping, Ladies Home Journal, 3 for NIS 10; under-the-counter storage for toaster oven, NIS 80. 02-651-8902.

TRIPOD - new, Velbon, light-weight, NIS 165; electric typewriter with case and cartridges, Smith Corona, good con-

dition, needs transformer, NIS 130. 02-581-1538.

ELECTRIC HEATER - oil radiator, 65 cm, NIS 298; Kenwood Chef can opener, NIS 40. 02-561-7257.

COLOR TV - Philips, 21-in., without remote control, NIS 350. 02-586-5621, NS.

ROLLERBLADES - Blade Runner 2500 Pro, nearly new, men's size 12, NIS 250; boots, new, plush lined, waterproof, men's size 45-46, Italian, NIS 100. 02-527-5399.

LADIES' RAINCOATS - long, hooded, NIS 80; medium, short, beige, NIS 50; unisex, large, NIS 70. 02-624-2749.

'SCARLETT' - sequel to Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*, as new, NIS 50. 02-571-1202.

TEAK COFFEE TABLE - 58 x 162, excellent condition, NIS 200. 02-643-8176.

HERMES TYPEWRITER - English, good condition, NIS 200. 02-566-3705, NS.

RAMBOO COUCH - 3 parts, in good condition (table also possible), NIS 350. Asher, 02-566-3705.

SHOES - size 41, black, men's, new, never worn, twice, NIS 195. 02-537-3399.

JVC DISCAMAN - new, with speakers, NIS 280. 02-536-9153.

2 FOLDING BEDS - with mattresses, NIS 150 each. 02-561-7883.

KEROSENE HEATER - NIS 100; electric heater, NIS 70; desk with 4 shelves, 2 drawers, for 1-2 children, NIS 120. 02-565-8258.

DOUBLE STROLLER - Kolcraft, Grand Limo, 6 months old, NIS 350. 02-671-5133.

LADIES' SWEATER - medium, NIS 100; dress, US size 12, NIS 150. 02-625-2381/136, 9 am - 3 pm, Sun-Thurs.

MEN'S PARKA - new, Outdoor Adventure, size 3, NIS 150; judo suit, size 10-12 years, NIS 45; Rollerblades, size 41/42, NIS 50. 02-651-3654, NS.

3 SUITCASES - good condition, NIS 30 to NIS 80; Convoisier cognac, new, NIS 150. 02-651-3232.

5 LARGE SUITCASES - excellent condition, NIS 70 each. 02-532-2033, NS.

OVEN AND BURNERS - NIS 250. 02-581-1538.

ELECTRIC OVEN/GRILL/TOASTER - NIS 100. 02-566-4332, NS.

LINEN STORAGE CHEST - top opening, NIS 190; Mousenap game, nearly new, NIS 35; 2 twin quilts, pastel colors, NIS 50 each. 02-651-1765, NS.

POCKET-SIZE COLOR TV - Citizen, 2 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. screen, excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-651-3219, NS.

AMERICAN FABRIWARE ROTISSERIE - new, in original box, NIS 110V, NIS 350. 02-581-4801, 6-10 pm, NS.

BLACK & DECKER DRILL - plus 12 drill bits, good condition, NIS 350. 02-670-2911.

COFFEE MAKER - Black & Decker, 12-cup, new in box, NIS 200. 02-652-7707.

MEN'S RAINCOAT - London Fog, with lining, excellent condition, 42 regular (US), NIS 325 o.b.o. 02-582-0024.

DISPLAY CABINET - NIS 150 cm x 150 cm, good condition, NIS 300; 3 nesting tables, NIS 50. 02-671-5067.

MEN'S SUIT - black, size 38, perfect condition, NIS 125. 02-581-2830.

WALL ARM POOR HANGING TV - large-sized, NIS 80; *Childcraft: The How & Why*, 14 vols., NIS 250; telescope, NIS 40. 02-561-9367, NS.

RADIATOR HEATER - gas, excellent condition, hardly used, large, efficient, economical, NIS 300. 02-561-0437, NS.

VIDEOS - unopened: *Big Sister Act*, *Banana Forever*, NIS 55 each; boys' 20" bike, NIS 80. 02-651-9432.

DOUBLE BED - box spring and mattress, good condition, medium-hard, NIS 350. 02-561-7423, NS.

BED - queen size, frame and mattress, NIS 350. 02-639972.

PANASONIC BOOM BOX - stereo cassette, AM/FM radio, NIS 250; black-hooded man fixtures, NIS 75. 02-673-3223.

doors and bottom cabinets, either from store or individual. 03-540-6811, NS.

OLD ENGLISH TYPEWRITER - to buy, Yosef, 08-924-7891.

MAYTAG GAS DRYER - new or used, for family with 6 kids. 08-926674, 050-50012.

USED ISRAELI PHONECARDS - will pay, 03-641-9511.

TABLE, CHAIRS - and other furniture in good condition for Russian olim. Will pick up in Haifa area. Nechama, 04-838-5219.

PRINTER - very good condition. 02-584-6254 or 02-531-5628 (work).

OLD BASEBALL CARDS - any condition, leave message. 02-629-8666, room 1617.

LEFTOVER WOOL, MATERIAL - and succeeded sewing/knitting tools gratefully accepted at club for elderly, 53 Hapaluma, Sun-Thurs, or via Ruth, 02-586-5728, NS.

OLD CLOCKS - pictures, books, to buy, 02-581-3662.

CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME/PATIENT - seeking English-speaking doctor in Jerusalem who will treat CFS. 02-673-1297, NS.

MAGICIAN/CLOWN - for private party for children. Bonnie, 02-586-8222.

SUIT OF ARMOR - with visor; to borrow for short period. 02-673-1813.

TOY KITCHEN SET - Fisher Price or Little Tikes, puzzles on a frame for children, reasonable price. 02-538-2846, 586-5728, NS.

WASHER AND DRYER - used, any condition. 02-991-7445.

WEIGHTS - and/or bench press. 02-566-5923.

ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA - to buy, 02-861232.

DINING-ROOM TABLE - chairs, file cabinet, coffee table, living-room chairs, very good condition. 02-363-4402.

LIGHTWEIGHT STROLLER - Chico, Mischon or similar, bookcase, medium height. 02-534-0017.

DVD - ANYONE TAPE - *The Big Questions*, Channel 8 on Oct. 28 or any other episodes. YOK, 02-641-8165.

CUCKOO CLOCK OLD PARTS - or any old parts for Maccin electric train system. 02-586-0113.

VIDEOTAPES - appropriate for chron-

ic care non-profit facility (mostly elderly residents). 02-653-5347.

METAL BOOKSHELVES - and poles, old books, incense, 02-651-3741.

EXTERNAL MODEM/FAX - and CD-Room, any speed. 02-586-0113.

FAX MACHINE - preferably with answering machine. 02-671-1597.

USED ISRAELI PHONECARDS - will pay, 03-641-9511.

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VIDEOTAPES - appropriate for chron-

(Nov. 22) 12 to 2 at the grounds of the Natural History Museum, Rehov HaHaganah, Veterinarian on-site. Sorry, the JSPCA cannot accept new pets at the event. In the event of rain, the campaign will be postponed. Details: 02-585-1531.

KITTENS - beautiful, healthy, house-trained, some vaccinated, very friendly, free to good homes. 02-638-3521, NS.

LAST OF LITTER - cute black and silver striped cat, litter trained, used to dogs, ready for adoption. 02-641-1242.

ANYONE HAVE INFORMATION - on where to purchase a Siamese kitten? 02-662-4638, NS.

FLUFFY MALE CAT - beautiful, neutered, seeks warm home, free. 02-641-9703.

PUPPIES - 2 1/2 months, small indoor lap dogs, to loving homes only. 02-534-5315.

SMALL DOG - very sweet, gentle, calm, house-trained, free to good home. 02-536-3128.

DELIGHTFUL PINSCHER DOGGIE - seeks temporary home for 6 weeks from Dec. 1, playful, trained, loves children - his sister is a cat. 02-561-0163.

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- Total cost of items per ad must not exceed NIS 350.
- The text must be printed clearly in English and submitted on the coupon below.
- The following are NOT accepted: business offers; apartment sales; rentals or exchanges; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relationships.
- The right to reject or edit and ad is reserved.

Ads must be addressed to:
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and must reach us by noon, Thursday of the week preceding publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and republished the following week. The price of each item must be stated.

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MESSAGE: _____

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THE JERUSALEM POST

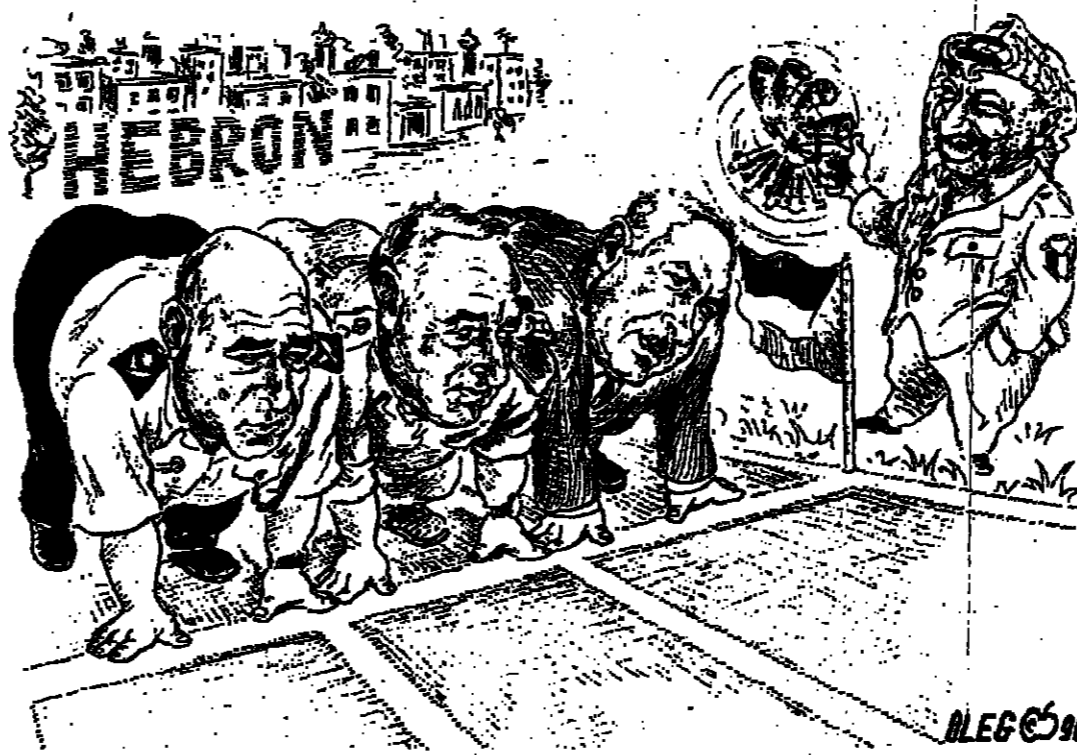
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Bag lady

PAULY BROWN

ISRAELIS shrug when they hear my plight. "Oh, it happens a lot," they smile. My plight is that I'm homeless. A wanderer, a bag lady.

In July Dudu said, "We're almost finished." In August he said, "Only a couple more weeks. You'll be in by September 1."

I suddenly had no place to live. I was in the midst of the holidays with everybody's uncle and several thousand soul-saving Christians coming to town.

No reasonably-priced rental was available, and anyway, with my overdraft (and soon checks bouncing in the US), I couldn't have afforded a cave.

Friends opened their doors and couches to me, but I knew house-guests and fish have to be thrown out after four days.

People ask, "When will your place be ready?" as if I had a clue. Months after "We're almost finished" there are no cabinets, toilets, sinks, light fixtures or front door.

A circular stairway needs to be made a fourth time. The outer walls need to be redone again. Dudu, who was going to redo the walls himself, has a ruptured disc.

My architect hollered, "Get this woman off the streets." He didn't have to put it quite that way, but I appreciated his concern.

My lawyer said, "The place is yours. You can always get a bed, pan, matches and a candle, and move in."

Get me a front door, and I'll consider it.

My car is overflowing with clothes, computer, printer, boxes of the papers I need to keep my life going, a giant empty Cheriros box. I can't part with it, Microsoft Word 3 discs and a manual I can't get rid of, file samples, and lots more.

SOME positive things have emerged from my nomadic existence. I've accepted long-standing invitations from friends in other parts of the country and broken a psychological barrier.

Despite braving the Alps and the Rockies in snowstorms, I suffered intense misery over driving in Israel. But desperation

Home sweet home... but not for me, yet

finally got me behind the wheel - to Karniel, Haifa and Beersheba.

And most of my friendships have been strengthened; but one was frayed badly.

When Jenny, who had been quick to offer her couch, learned it would be occupied by family members over Suscot, she arranged for me to stay with her good friend Marge.

As I packed to head for my next haven, Jenny bawled me out for overstaying my welcome.

I had done everything I could. I had tried to show Marge appreciation by being scarce and reimbursing her generously for phone calls and electricity consumption.

And what about my privacy? Worse - what about my respect and dignity?

Several friends then invited me to stay as long as I needed, but after Marge I stuck to my four-day rule.

After six weeks of feeling like a waif I've gotten in out of a storm. My situation hasn't become easy, but it's easier.

Still, with constant building delays I'm beyond trauma. Couldn't I just visit my son in Idaho and forget all about it for a while?

I know there've been worse tribulations than mine. I've heard of families with many children snuck with an unfinished flat. At least all I need is one couch.

Just one thing: Those who shrug off my homelessness with a blithe "Sure, it happens..." Well, I've found it never happened to them.

The writer is a bereft Jerusalemite.

The spy that never was

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

THE Nile version of the bungled "sting" to frame Druze Israeli Azzam Azzam as a Mossad spy operating in Cairo was the personal invention of no less a figure than Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, according to Mideast intelligence sources.

Our information from those sources is that like all would-be masterminds who have read too many spy thrillers Mubarak and his intelligence chiefs made an amateurish blunder.

They failed to take account of the fact that ever since the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel it has been every Israeli government's firm policy that no Israeli operative would be sent to Egypt.

Thus arresting an Israeli innocently in the country and claiming that he was there with evil Mossad intent would clearly be shown up as a fabrication.

It is true that in the past, when the two countries were still at war, both sent spies across their borders. Israeli spies caught in Egypt spent many years in Cairo prisons; some were executed. Egyptian spies have also been arrested in Israel.

Knowing how fragile the Israeli-Egypt peace was and how sensitive and suspicious the Egyptians were - Israel made a point of employing only electronic and other modern technological means to see what was going on along the Nile. And the Egyptians did the same vis-a-vis us.

All countries behave like this - to this day the US spies on Russia, and the Kremlin reciprocates accordingly.

Yet despite the knowledge that we had no spies in Egypt, the entire Israeli intelligence apparatus spent 24 frantic hours checking and rechecking "to make 1,000 percent certain there had been no bungle," as it was put to us.

And there had been none. Whatever it was Azzam had been doing in Cairo, there was no link between him and the Mossad.

So outraged was even the naive David Levy, who has been so enamored with all things Egyptian since becoming foreign minister, that on realizing the trumped-up nature of the charges against Azzam, he angrily

demanding the technician's immediate release. And Natan Sharansky, our normally-placid minister of industry and trade, complained bitterly that Israel could not do business with Egypt while an innocent man was in jail (Sharansky knows better than most what it is like to languish in jail on a fabricated charge (he did 10 years in a Soviet prison, accused of being a CIA agent).

It was no accident that the first Egyptian official comment on the arrest was made to France's Agence France Presse.

Because of President Chirac's denigration of Israel during his recent visit here and the angry reactions in Jerusalem, it was thought that AFP would swallow the story of the Israeli spy hook, line and sinker - and that it would be given every credence in Paris.

WHY WAS Azzam seized by eight armed security operatives, bundled into a car and driven off to a prison cell? The answer has everything to do with the arrival in Egypt of hundreds of Arab delegates from all over the Middle East for the Cairo conference.

It must be remembered that the Egyptian official press (there is no other) has been waging a bitter war of words against Israel for quite some time - it raged even during the Rabin-Peres governments. These verbal attacks descended to a frenzied personal level after Binyamin Netanyahu took power.

And now comes the second stigma: The Egyptians claim that since coming to power Netanyahu

has been trying to send spies to Egypt and to recruit Egyptians to work for Israel. As all intelligence services here know, there is no truth whatsoever to this claim.

Mubarak in particular has resented the way a number of Arab countries have been making contacts with Israel in the interests of creating economic ties, to the advantage of all concerned.

Cairo even signaled a message to Jerusalem that "We don't want any Israeli to attend the economic conference." The lame excuse was that Israel hadn't yet withdrawn from Hebron.

Unfazed by Mubarak's antagonism, Netanyahu responded that Egypt was "cutting off its nose to spite its face."

It took a personal visit from US Secretary of State Christopher to Cairo to point out to Mubarak that the state of the Egyptian economy was such that Egypt had more to gain from such a conference than Israel.

But the Egyptian ruler still resented the presence of Israelis. His framing of Azzam, intelligence sources stress, had several purposes.

One was to try and warn Egyptian companies off employing Israelis, no matter how skilled. Azzam's arrest was meant to sound a warning to other Arab countries that doing business with Israel could bring along with it the danger of "secret Mossad spies."

Another Israeli, an antique dealer called David Ovitz, was held on phony espionage charges in Cairo's notorious Touza prison in 1992. Eventually premier Yitzhak Shamir made a decision, banged his fist on his desk and demanded that the innocent man be set free at once.

On his return to Israel the shaken Ovitz, seated on a Louis XIV chair in his Jaffa home, told this column: "I will never, ever set foot in Egypt again."

It is clearly a sentiment Azzam must be praying to be allowed to utter once he is back in the warmth and comfort of his village in Israel.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Cadets at the Police Academy in Melbourne wear non-standard equipment; bulbous plastic red noses. Well, what do you expect on annual Red Nose Day? (AP)

POSTSCRIPTS

A BLACK woman was named Miss Italy after two judges at the pageant were dismissed for saying her skin color doesn't reflect true Italian beauty.

Denny Mendez garnered the most votes from a dozen judges and 9 million television viewers who gave their opinions over the phone.

"I would like (the winner) to be the mirror of this eternal Italy and not the copy of another country, another culture," said one judge, fashion photographer Bob Kreiger.

Mendez moved from the Dominican Republic to Florence four years ago and has become an Italian citizen.

I know I've caused a lot of debate here, but I just came here to Miss Italy to be discovered," Mendez said.

A BRITISH woman has married a man for the second time - for the second time.

Outdoing even Elizabeth Taylor, Edie Walker of Bridlington hooked up with Adrian Walker, 37, for the second time in three years, eight years after remarriage her fourth husband in her fifth wedding.

Edie and Adrian divorced last year after two years of marriage, but on Valentine's Day, Edie phoned Adrian and said, "Marry me again. I miss you."

Edie, 49, apparently believes in marriage: she's done it so often she needs a scorecard. She met husband number one 30 years ago when she was a 19-year-old, working as a greeting

cards sorter. That lasted five years.

Husband no. 2 lasted from 1972-1973. No. 3 was No. 2's uncle - but that lasted just six weeks in 1981.

The serial monogamist married No. 4 in 1985, which lasted until 1987.

In 1988, she decided to make no. 4 no. 5, marrying him again - for all of two days.

When will it all end? The Bride of Bridlington says it has: with 20 friends in attendance at the registry office, Edie said that after seven weddings, five husbands and four name-changes, Adrian - number six and seven - was it for sure.

"This one is for ever," said Edie.

Zaire's grim realities

IT is hardly surprising the world community is reluctant to get dragged into military intervention in central Africa as shades of Somalia rise up to haunt it. Yet it is clear another human disaster is running its familiar course in Zaire, and Canada is to be commended for offering to lead international intervention to punch out safe pathways for aid and relief supplies into needy areas.

Nonetheless, it should be remembered that just as the deployment of the US military in Somalia turned into a disaster, so too the first Canadian deployment in Bosnia brought little success at a time when United Nations forces were dug into trenches protecting themselves, rather than performing any useful function for Bosnians.

The deteriorating situation in Zaire is complicated and potentially as dangerous as Bosnia was. The most obvious complication is that the Rwandan refugees in Zaire are not the most innocent of the world's wretched. Certainly, as always, it is mostly the women and children who suffer most. But among this mass of people who fled from Rwanda after the massacres there in 1994 are large numbers of the Hutu killers and mass murderers of Rwanda's Tutsi.

The focus in Zaire is becoming more grimly apparent - a doctor there has warned that 25,000 refugees - the entire population of Bukavu - could be wiped out by cholera within days. France and Spain have criticized the United States for its laggardly response to the crisis and, while the American need to know more about the scope and aims of the operation are understandable, the critics do have a point.

Suspicion of the UN, plus the American ability to develop some paralyzing "syndrome" after every Vietnam or Somalia, seems to have drained the will of Washington to act decisively when such action is appropriate and to lead, rather than follow reluctantly.

Once the Security Council has fully authorized the multinational deployment, it seems the best solution is for Canada, France, and Spain to go ahead and deploy rapidly and at once, rather than wait for the US and Britain to stop dithering. The object is to save tens of thousands of lives, not to draw up reams of procedures, role definitions, command structures, and exit scenarios.

Life saving indeed is the priority, but Washington is right in one aspect of its cautious analysis - the only solution to this new African crisis is long-term political pacification. And that is its most depressing aspect. With the noteworthy exception of South Africa, this continent's ability to get itself into anything other than a mess remains in grave doubt.

Just as the Organization of African Unity once turned its two blind eyes on Idi Amin of Uganda and Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic, so for 30 years it has ignored the unseparably corrupt dictatorship of President Sese Seko Mobutu while he plundered Zaire for his personal pleasure. As in the other cases, the OAU - which vies with the Non-aligned Movement for the title of most useless international organization - may now be reaping the whirlwind for its benign neglect of the rights and welfare of another nation-full of long-suffering Africans.

With the ailing dictator more or less out of the way in one of his European health centers, the Zairean rebels who have taken over the east with the aid of the Rwandan Army have declared their aim of liberating all the country from Mobutu's clutches. It is indeed a long shot with no guarantee the rebels would succeed or that they would be any better than Mobutu. Disintegration of the myth of yet another African state seems the most likely outcome.

The rebels are trying to persuade ordinary Zaireans and soldiers to flock to their ragged banner. The reluctant ones in the areas they have captured around Goma are herded into that well-known Third World center of learning - the compulsory reeducation camp. It is not a promising start to a bright new dawn over Zaire, Rwanda, or Burundi.

Rwanda has halted its penetration of Zaire since it captured the useful buffer zone of the east, and says the rebels are now capable of going all the way to the capital themselves - if they can mobilize the people and prove they represent real change. It is on those two "ifs" the scenario collapses into fantasy. The only reality on the ground is likely to be provided in the form of food and medicine by the world community. It should get on with it, before the only reality left is the final one for a million or more starving people.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SICKENING BILL

Sir, - I refer to Haim Shapiro's article of October 31 on the proposed bill to invalidate Reform and Conservative conversions performed in Israel. The bill is sickening. What has happened to the status-quo agreement reached by Ben-Gurion in 1948? In 1948, no one asked which Jewish stream immigrants belonged to. I would remind everyone that very very few of the "fanatically religious" helped to create Israel.

I came to Israel in May 1948 as a member of Mahal. (For those who do not remember, Mahalaniks were overseas volunteers.) Before coming, I had campaigned in order to persuade experienced ex-WWII Jewish soldiers to come to infant Israel's aid. I didn't ask who was a member of which stream of Jewish thought - I considered that aspect completely irrelevant. Maybe others were more successful but I was most surprised and unhappy to find that I couldn't enlist the support of a single hard-core Jew. When I arrived, I also noted that a soldier wearing a kippa was a rarity.

When, at the Sha'ar Hagai Memorial, I pay my respects to the

enormous number of Mahal fallen, I know that no one asked from which stream of Judaism each of them came.

Where is this proposed law going to lead? In the United Kingdom, where the Reform movement is strong and much more Orthodox than in the US, there are four main streams of Jewish thought. Over the years there have been an enormous number of conversions to each sect and marriages between members of each sect. In future, which UK Jews will be considered good enough to be eligible for immigrant status?

What will be the status of children of those already converted here? The mind boggles at the thought of the problems which the bill will create for them.

The scope for internecine fighting both here and abroad will be enormous. The dwindling overseas Jewish community will dwindle still further and the enmity created within Israel itself will perhaps so weaken its moral fiber it will become an easy prey to its enemies.

DAVID REBAK Rishon Lezion.

LACK OF DISCIPLINE

Sir, - There is one underlying element in Israeli society which is the root of a great many of our problems: the lack of discipline at all levels.

Most recently, this was exemplified by the unauthorized meetings of General Shabroth with members of the opposition party. Whether the rule prohibiting such meetings is good or bad is irrelevant. It exists and one would expect a person of his standing to abide by the rule. If he thinks the rule is bad, he can work through channels to try to change it. How can he expect soldiers under his command to abide by regulations when he himself flouts them? The prime minister would be well served by the example furnished by president Truman in relieving General MacArthur of command.

But then again, why should General Shabroth be any different from the president of the same? After all, he had contact with the PLO at a time when they were illegal and he was a member of the cabinet. And his punishment? Within a short period of time he was elected to the most honored post in the country.

Yossi Beilin's attitude on the failure of the PLO to amend its

THE MIDAS TOUCH

Sir, - Guest columnist Meretz MK Yossi Sarid says King Midas was rewarded with a touch that turned everything to gold (November 1) and that, by contrast, everything the Netanyahu government touches turns into a potato - a hot potato - including the "gold" it inherited from the prior government.

The Midas touch was a curse, as food became inedible gold, threatening life. Lifting the curse included grinding up all the gold and dumping it in the river.

MK Sarid, a leading intellectual of the prior government, committed a public-service Freudian slip; inadvertently, he reveals his suppressed realization that the prior government's "golden touch" which produced the Oslo agreements was ultimately dangerous to Israel.

SUE GOLDEN LERNER Jerusalem.

ISRAEL TV'S SYMPATHIES

Sir, - Greer Fay Cashman misrepresents the situation when she tells us that the main targets of TV satirists, the Harutzim, are government figures "because they're the ones in the headlines" (Time Out, November 1). The truth of the matter is that the right wing, as against the left, is nearly always the target of TV satirists and humorists, whether they are in the government, attracting headlines, or the opposition - for the simple reason that Israel Television, to its shame, is very much biased in favor of the left side of the political spectrum.

This being the case, the 56 percent of the Jewish population which voted for the right at the polls is left feeling hard done by, dissatisfied and discriminated against where Israel TV is concerned.

The true mark of a good satirist is one who pokes fun at the ridiculous, regardless of the political orientation of the subject, leaving the viewer totally in the dark as to where the satirist's political sympathies lie.

Not one can have the least doubt as to where the political allegiance of the satirists on Israel TV lie.

RHONA YEMINI Givatayim.

Advertisement for 'The Cambridge British Theatre' featuring a portrait of a woman and contact information for ticket purchases.

36 The Jerusalem Bag lady

Einstein's extraordinary law of marriage

Private letters shown to the public for the first time this week provide fascinating new insights into the scientist's life, Tom Gross reports

ALBERT Einstein, the 20th century's greatest scientist and would-be president of Israel, was a harsh male chauvinist who wanted to control his wife's every move, according to letters written by the Nobel Prize winner which have been made public for the first time.

The letters, many of which were briefly on display in Jerusalem this week, at the Jewish National and University Library on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University, reveal a surprising side of the man who has become a byword for genius.

In one letter, Einstein dictated a strict set of rules which his first wife, Mileva Maric, would have to abide by if they were to remain together.

The letter reads as follows:

"A. You will see to it:

- 1) that my clothes and linen are kept in order;
- 2) that I am served three regular meals a day in my room;
- 3) that my bedroom and study are always kept in good order and that my desk is not touched by anyone other than me.

B. You will renounce all personal relations with me, except those that are required to keep up social appearances. In particular, you will not request:

- 1) that I sit with you at home;
- 2) that I go out with you or travel with you.

C. You will promise explicitly to observe the following points:

- 1) You will expect no affection from me and you will not reproach me for this;
- 2) You must answer me at once when I speak to you;
- 3) You must leave my bedroom or study at once without protesting when I ask you to go;
- 4) You will promise not to denigrate me in the eyes of my children, either by word or by deed."

THE letter is thought to date from April 1914, shortly after the Einsteins had moved to Berlin. Einstein, then aged 35, had taken up a post at the Prussian Academy of Sciences. At that time he was fully engaged in preparing his General Theory of Relativity, which he published just over a year later.

But Einstein's law of marriage didn't work. A few months after this letter was written, Mileva took the couple's two sons, Hans Albert and Eduard, back to Zurich, saying they were going on vacation. Instead it turned out to be the end of the marriage and the couple never lived together again.

In fact, work hadn't been Einstein's only preoccupation at the time. He had, by then, already been conducting a secret love affair for two years with his first cousin Elsa Löwenthal, who moved in with him in 1917 and whom he married in 1919. (On April 23, 1918, Einstein wrote to Mileva, "I'm very eager to see which will take longer, the war or our divorce.")

These letters are part of a set of 430 letters and papers, whose existence was unknown until 1986, when they were found in a Los Angeles bank vault.

Together with an extremely valuable 53-page scientific manuscript written by Einstein in 1913 and sent out an work that led to his theory of relativity, which was also on public view for the first time, they were in Jerusalem for less than 48 hours. They have now been taken for show in Zurich and Berlin before going on to New York, where they will be auctioned by Christie's on November 25.

Even before the release of these new letters, it was well-known that Einstein held the institution of marriage in low esteem. "Marriage must have been invented by an unimaginative pig," he once said.

But he was also capable of displaying loving, romantic touches. In other letters on display this week, which were written some years earlier, he called Mileva "my dear little kitten," "my dearest little child" and "my dear sweetheart."

The relaxed, natural tone of these letters is in sharp contrast to the formality of Einstein's scientific letters. In 1900 he wrote to her: "When I am not with you I feel as if I am not whole... I miss you, my dear little 'right hand'... I miss your two little arms and that glowing mouth full of tenderness and kisses."

The letters confirm that Mileva, who was Serbian, and whom Einstein had met when he was her fellow physics student at Zurich Polytechnic, had greatly assisted him with his studies on relativity. In 1901, he wrote "... I'll be so happy and proud when we live together and can bring our work on relative motion to a successful conclusion."

In 1912, only two years before the rule-laying letter, he was still telling Mileva he loved her: "I have to have someone to love, otherwise life is miserable. And this someone is you."

But Einstein scholars have been disappointed that one of the great mysteries that has intrigued them for years remains unanswered by the release of these new letters: The fate of Einstein and Mileva's premarital love-child, Lieserl.

From the correspondence, it seems that Einstein never actually saw Lieserl, who was born in 1902, before he and Mileva were married. At the time of the birth, he was in Bern while she was with her parents in Serbia. On hearing the news that they had had a girl, he wrote to her: "Now you see that it really is a Lieserl just as you'd wished. Is she healthy and does she cry properly? What are her eyes like? Which one of us does she more resemble? Who is giving her milk? Is she hungry?"

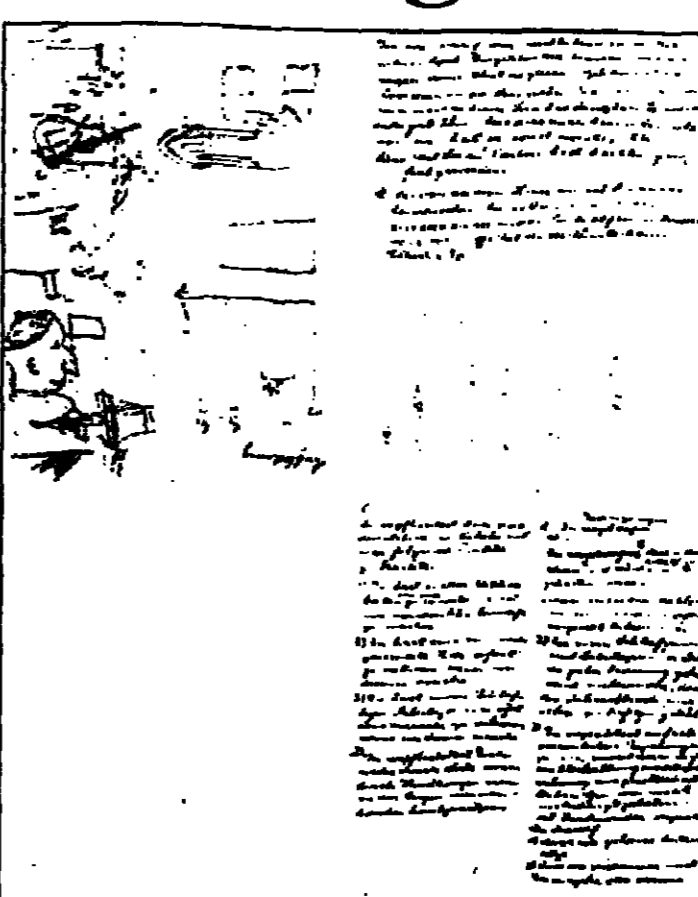
"I love her so much and don't even know her yet!"

But when Mileva returned to Switzerland a few months later, she came alone, and it seems that Lieserl had been given up for adoption. Einstein's last-known written reference to his first daughter is in another of the letters to Mileva on display this week, written to her when she was in Serbia, pregnant with their second

child. "I'm not the least bit angry that poor Dollie [Mileva] is hatching a new chick... I'm very sorry about what has befallen Lieserl. It's so easy to suffer lasting effects from scarlet fever... As what is the child registered? We must take precautions that problems don't arise for her later." Einstein appears to have believed Lieserl had not died at that time. In the 1930s, when an impostor claimed to be his daughter, Einstein took the claim seriously and hired a private investigator to look into the matter.



Albert Einstein with his first wife, Mileva, in Prague in 1911. By 1914, he was setting out conditions telling her what to do, shown here in draft on a paper that also includes calculations and doodles. Below: Mileva with their two sons, Eduard and Hans Albert in 1914.



THE LETTERS on display this week also show that at the same time the great physicist was being lauded for his new discoveries on relativity, his son, Hans Albert, then 11, was struggling to do his math homework. "I am glad you like geometry," Einstein wrote in 1915, in a letter in reply to one his son had written him. "It was my favorite subject when I was a little older than you, perhaps about 12, but I had no one to show me anything so I had to learn it from books."

One letter from Hans Albert, written towards the end of the First World War in December 1917, and answering some mathematical questions Einstein had set, had been intercepted by the censor. "The funniest part of your letter," wrote Einstein in reply, "was a postscript which was not from you but was added by the censor. He gave the solution to my exercise, omitted by you, absolutely correctly, in pencil below your letter."

The sale is expected to generate enormous worldwide interest. "Einstein is the first real celebrity scientist. He has become the Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe of the scientific world," said Christie's Book Department International director Felix de Marez Oyens, visiting Israel this week. "We thought it was fitting that they first be shown publicly here because of Einstein's great love of this country."



THE 430 letters constitute the entire family archive in the possession of his first wife and two sons, and if possible Christie's aim to sell them as a single lot. The other half of this correspondence, including letters written to Einstein by Mileva and his children, is already at the Hebrew University, having been donated by Einstein, together with his literary rights. Einstein had long been a great supporter of the Hebrew University, accompanying Chaim Weizmann on one of the original fund-raising tours of the US in 1921.

But in accordance with the terms of his estate, the letters already held here cannot be made public until 2006. "They include the other half of the correspondence now to be auctioned," says Ze'ev Rosenkranz, the curator of the archives at the Hebrew University, and the only man alive who is presently able to see them. "It would be fantastic if someone can

reuniting two halves of a telephone conversation." De Marez Oyens echoed this wish. "I think it would be desirable for the world of scholarship if the two Einstein family archives were united. It would give an integrated idea of the daily life and emotions of the person who was perhaps the greatest scientist of all time," he said.

But fierce competition is expected at the New York auction and it is thought they may well end up at one of the many Einstein study centers in America, Switzerland, or most likely Germany, a possibility that Einstein's granddaughter Evelyn Einstein says she is unhappy about because of her grandfather's strong dislike of the country of his birth.

THE LETTERS, which are the property of the Einstein Family Correspondence Trust, are expected to fetch \$3 million when they are sold at auction in New York later this month. The aim is to raise funds for the benefit of the scientist's grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Correspondence between Einstein and other scientists has previously been sold at auction, but this is the first time any private family letters have been put up for sale. The sale is the result of a family feud dating back to last year when Evelyn tried to remove her nephew, Dr Thomas Einstein, a 41-year-old Los Angeles-based anesthesiologist, from a trust overseeing the letters. Family members need to know their worth prior to a court case due to be heard in December. Over the years Evelyn, 55, has held an incredibly diverse range of jobs - from working as an aircraft mechanic to serving as a police officer in Berkeley, California. Now she says she needs to raise money for medical expenses to treat cancer and undergo a liver transplant, and is alleging other trustees breached their duties in a \$5 million legal suit.

Breaking up a genius's brain

EVEN MORE incredible than the revelation of the letters is the story of Einstein's brain. Following his death in 1955, and just before Einstein's body was cremated, the brain was removed by Thomas Harvey, a pathologist at Princeton. Harvey had planned to use it for medical research, in an effort to discover what special features constitute the brain of a genius. But instead it was kept for years in a jar in the basement of Harvey's house before he eventually sent pieces of it around the world to medical researchers.

His eyeballs, however, were given to Einstein's ophthalmologist Dr. Henry Abrams, who until this day has kept them in a safety deposit box in New Jersey. Last year, pop star Michael Jackson offered \$7 million to buy the eyes. Over the years a number of people have come forward claiming they are lost descendants of the great physicist. In one case, in 1993, an attempt was even made to carry out a paternity test, using DNA from Einstein's preserved brain, to check a claim by an American woman that she was the daughter of the mysterious Lieserl. But the brain was too badly disintegrated to confirm the claim.

Curiosity in children should always be at least accepted, if not encouraged, by their parents. This does not mean that answers to their questions should be given lightly. It just means that answers should be tailored to their age - whatever that age may be. If your child were a teenager inquiring about the gay couple in the build-

High 'standards' for the right woman may actually be fears

DEAR RUTHIE, I want to find a woman with whom to settle down and have a family. The problem is that I can't even find one with whom to spend more than one evening without being bored or irritated. Looks are also very important to me. Most of the women I meet, frankly, just aren't up to my standards. Don Juan in Doldrums Somewhere in Israel. Dear Down Denny. Perhaps you are looking at this whole issue backwards. What you refer to as your "standards" may be none other than a deep-seated fear of finding a woman. In order to "settle down and have a family," obviously you first have to be able to sit through an evening. By getting unimpressed every time you are out with a woman, you have created the perfect safety valve to avoid progressing on the road to permanence. Where looks are concerned, here too you may be playing a trick on yourself. It is the easiest thing in the world to focus on the physical imperfections of the opposite sex - when the opposite sex presents a problem by representing a threat.

But it is just as easy to get past such imperfections, when genuine attraction is electrifying the atmosphere. What you must ask yourself honestly is whether you really want to get married. You might also consider therapy. Until you settle this question internally, you will continue to be disappointed by the women you meet. And if you do manage to settle it, you may discover a sea of attractive, interesting women out there whom you have never noticed before.

DEAR RUTHIE, A gay couple has moved into our building, and my seven-year-old keeps inquiring about them. The main thing that seems to trouble him is why two adults are not married yet (and have no children), and why, if they're not married, do they live together, rather than alone? How should I deal with these questions? Perturbed Parent Tel Aviv. Dear Perturbed,

Your child's fascination and endless questions are par for his age. And these particular inquiries are no different from any other he might raise about life in general, or about sex in particular. As such, they should be dealt with accordingly. Curiosity in children should always be at least accepted, if not encouraged, by their parents. This does not mean that answers to their questions should be given lightly. It just means that answers should be tailored to their age - whatever that age may be. If your child were a teenager inquiring about the gay couple in the build-

ing, your answer would be quite different. In this case, each question should be answered as simply and directly as possible, without going into details which your seven-year-old is neither ready for nor needs to hear. If you are uncertain as to what level of explanation is called for, you can use your child as a "guide." Do a little asking of your own, to find out why he is so curious about this particular couple. Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@post.co.il

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, November 14, 1996

Skoda seeks large-scale Israeli investment

CZECH corporation Skoda is looking to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in the Middle East, with Israel high on the list of preferred countries.

The company is also keen to help the Israel Electric Corporation and any other government company with privatization plans.

Skoda executive vice president Ivan Kotek revealed these plans during an exclusive interview with *The Jerusalem Post* on the second day of the Middle East/North Africa Economic conference in Cairo.

The company's Middle East sales manager Jiri Janicek visited Israel three weeks ago to search for strategic partners.

"The first country here was Egypt. Since 1994, we have generated \$60 million of business," Janicek said.

"We hope this will continue in other countries. Israel can be one of them."

The 130-year-old company, privatized in 1993, now deals in heavy engineering, infrastructure projects and large transportation vehicles.

The motor-vehicle wing was

**DAVID HARRIS
CAIRO**

sold to Volkswagen in the privatization shake-up.

Skoda is perceived as being the jewel in the crown of the Czech Republic's privatization program, in which 81 percent of state-owned companies were sold over the last five years. The Czechs introduced the idea of share option vouchers giving all citizens the right to become shareholders.

Among other possible projects

in the Middle East, Skoda is interested in power generation, distribution and transformation.

"Israel is among those countries we view as a potential business partner for the next few years," Kotek said.

"We've already started to look for partners in the fields of automobiles, energy and power engineering equipment."

The company is also looking to construct new electricity grid networks throughout the region. Israel's urban transport schemes are also of interest to Skoda. They would be prepared

to provide all project facilities and equipment, including locomotives, wagons, trolley buses and buses.

Funding would be provided by Czech organizations and local partners.

"We are open to new partnerships and new markets," Kotek said. "These will create for us not only the opportunity to export our products and know-how, but also offer our partners transfer of this know-how, creation of jobs and their incorporation in our worldwide commercial network."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

An agreement for scientific cooperation between the State of New Jersey and the Science Ministry was signed last night in Jerusalem by New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman and Science Minister Ze'ev Binyamin Begin. New Jersey is one of the 10 leading states in this field and has many major research institutes, including those at Princeton and Rutgers Universities, Bell Labs and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Ministry officials said they expect the agreement would constitute a "major breakthrough" in scientific links between high-tech industries and research institutes in Israel and those in the US state.

Judy Siegel

Bezeq has chosen the Nikuv company to establish a new computerized financial system for the company, Nikuv, which was the main supplier chosen in a tender, integrated the Formula company in the project's management. The winning proposal is based on the software package Taffit 2010, based on client/server technology. At present, Bezeq has over 2,000 personal computers, plus 3,000 terminals and hundreds of printers at 350 company offices around the country. The new system will be a central management tool enabling Bezeq to control and supervise its finances and logistics, director-general Yitzhak Kaul said.

Judy Siegel

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE - The Government Printer

Miriam Hahashmonait St., Jerusalem
Tel. 972-2-568-5216

Tender no. 11/96

I hereby give notice of a tender, no. 11/96, for the acquisition of a paper cutter machine (guillotine) with cutting width of 115 cm., for paper and cardboard. The maximum time for delivery of the machine from the date of the issuance of the order by the orderer until its installation and activation in the offices of the Government Printer, including instruction of staff, is 7 months. An offer by the offerer of a shorter period of time for the fulfillment of the above obligations will be a factor in the selection of the winner in the tender. The winner in the tender will supply the orderer with a guarantee for the machine for a period of no less than one year. A guarantee for a longer period will be a factor in the selection of the winner in the tender. The supply of the machine to the offices of the Government Printer, including the installation and activation thereof and the instruction of the staff, will be at the expense of the offerer and its sole responsibility.

Pre-conditions for participation in the tender:

1. Only a supplier certified by the manufacturer of the machine may take part in the tender. The offerer is required to provide verification by the manufacturer that it is a certified supplier on behalf of the manufacturer.
2. The participation in the tender is only for offerers with proven experience in supplying service and maintenance in Israel, for at least 3 years, and which have had a qualified technical team that operated regularly in Israel in supplying service and maintenance for the manufacturer of the machine offered, for a period of no less than 3 years.
3. The participation in the tender is only for offerers that have an inventory in Israel of original parts for the machine offered, that are available immediately on demand.
4. The participation in the tender is conditional on the offerer providing all documents required by the Public Bodies (Transactions) (Enforcement of Bookkeeping) Law, 5777-1977.
5. The offerer will be required to deposit an unconditional bank guarantee, from an Israeli bank, for the sum of NIS 25,000, linked to the consumer price index published by the Central Bureau of Statistics known on the last day for submitting offers, the guarantee to be valid until February 6, 1997.
6. The purchase of the tender documents.

The sale of the tender documents for NIS 500 will take place in the offices of The Government Printer, Miriam Hahashmonait St., Jerusalem until December 14, 1996, Sun. - Thu., 08:00-14:00, Fri. 08:00-11:30.

There will be no sale on the day before holidays.

Offers must be submitted to the offices of the Government Printer, at the above address, in the tender box in the archives, no later than December 24, 1996, at 12:30.

The provisions of the tender documents prevail over the provisions of this notice.

Tender no. 12/96

I hereby give notice of a tender, no. 12/96, for the acquisition of a book binding machine with hot glue system. The maximum time for delivery of the machine from the date of the issuance of the order by the orderer until its installation and activation in the offices of the Government Printer, including instruction of staff, is 7 months. An offer by the offerer of a shorter period of time for the fulfillment of the above obligations will be a factor in the selection of the winner in the tender. The winner in the tender will supply the orderer with a guarantee for the machine for a period of no less than one year. A guarantee for a longer period will be a factor in the selection of the winner in the tender. The supply of the machine to the offices of the Government Printer, including the installation and activation thereof and the instruction of the staff, will be at the expense of the offerer and its sole responsibility.

Pre-conditions for participation in the tender:

1. Only a supplier certified by the manufacturer of the machine may take part in the tender. The offerer is required to provide verification by the manufacturer that it is a certified supplier on behalf of the manufacturer.
2. The participation in the tender is only for offerers with proven experience in supplying service and maintenance in Israel, for at least 3 years, and which have had a qualified technical team that operated regularly in Israel in supplying service and maintenance for the manufacturer of the machine offered, for a period of no less than 3 years.
3. The participation in the tender is only for offerers that have an inventory in Israel of original parts for the machine offered, that are available immediately on demand.
4. The participation in the tender is conditional on the offerer providing all documents required by the Public Bodies (Transactions) (Enforcement of Bookkeeping) Law, 5777-1977.
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The provisions of the tender documents prevail over the provisions of this notice.

Tender no. 13/96

I hereby give notice of a tender, no. 13/96, for the acquisition of a gathering stitching trimming machine for booklets and leaflets. The maximum time for delivery of the machine from the date of the issuance of the order by the orderer until its installation and activation in the offices of the Government Printer, including instruction of staff, is 7 months. An offer by the offerer of a shorter period of time for the fulfillment of the above obligations will be a factor in the selection of the winner in the tender. The winner in the tender will supply the orderer with a guarantee for the machine for a period of no less than one year. A guarantee for a longer period will be a factor in the selection of the winner in the tender. The supply of the machine to the offices of the Government Printer, including the installation and activation thereof and the instruction of the staff, will be at the expense of the offerer and its sole responsibility.

Pre-conditions for participation in the tender:

1. Only a supplier certified by the manufacturer of the machine may take part in the tender. The offerer is required to provide verification by the manufacturer that it is a certified supplier on behalf of the manufacturer.
2. The participation in the tender is only for offerers with proven experience in supplying service and maintenance in Israel, for at least 3 years, and which have had a qualified technical team that operated regularly in Israel in supplying service and maintenance for the manufacturer of the machine offered, for a period of no less than 3 years.
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J. Dauber
Deputy Government Printer
Chairman of the Acquisition Committee

Leviev expects a property recovery as boost for Africa-Israel

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

LEV Leviev, who has invested \$189 million in Africa Israel Investments, said yesterday he based his decision to purchase the controlling share in the holding company on expectations that the real estate market will recover in the near future from its current slowdown.

Leviev, 40, who is considered one of the largest diamond merchants in the world, gained control of Africa Israel, a sprawling real estate, tourism and industrial company, from Bank Leumi at the start of the week.

The purchase of a block of shares representing about 46.53% of Africa Israel's share capital marks Leviev's first major entrance into the real estate market in Israel.

"If I did not believe in the economy and especially in the real estate sector in Israel, I would not have entered Africa Israel. Maybe as some people expect there will be a recession in the economy, or a slowdown, but I am optimistic," he said.

The new owner blames the slowdown in the real estate sector on the Bank of Israel's policy to limit credit

to the sector in an attempt to reduce the banking sector's exposure to credit risks. "The recession in the real estate sector is not a real recession. It is due to the Bank of Israel's pressure on the market in terms of credit financing, a policy which is likely to spread and hinder other sectors," said Leviev.

Leviev is optimistic that real estate prices will resume their upward trend. In the housing market, he believes continued immigration in addition to natural population growth and existing demand will keep prices stable. In the short run, he said, prices may remain at the same level but in the future they will rise.

The new owner is also optimistic that investment in commercial property will reap gains.

"There are many offices available on the market like the Shalom Center for example, but I am confident they will all be absorbed," said Leviev.

The only field which Leviev sees as possibly problematic is construction of buildings for light industries. "There is too much building in this field," he said.

Commenting on the peace process, Leviev expressed optimism that there would be peace in the Middle East, a development which will undoubtedly help the economy.

"Today, we can feel a slowdown in the tourism sector resulting from the political situation. Hotel occupancy is relatively low, especially compared with last year," said Leviev.

The new owner said the local economy should continue to invest in the high-tech industry, where Israel has a relative advantage compared with other countries. While he has not yet decided on a business plan for Africa Israel, Leviev intends to examine the company's future entrance into the high-tech field.

Tough race over who will be Easdaq's 1st float

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Three firms from Britain, France and Belgium are racing to be the first to float on Europe's new growth stocks market, Easdaq, the exchange said yesterday.

Easdaq spokesman Chris Pickles confirmed the identity of two candidates named in Britain's *Financial Times* newspaper yesterday as Dr. Solomon's Group, a UK-based antivirus software developer, and ActivCard, a French smartcard maker.

The third is Innogenetics NV, a biotechnology firm, which on Tuesday launched an initial public offering of 6,658,050 shares, or 32 percent of its share capital, at between \$10 and \$12 each.

Innogenetics's issue runs until November 25 and the company plans to quote its shares on November 28, though Easdaq officials have said another IPO might be possible before then.

"It sounds like there's a race on between the three of them to come on the market first. All three have been approved by Easdaq for trading, though it is up to the issuer to decide exactly when they want to go public," Pickles said.

The pan-European exchange, which is modelled on New York's Nasdaq, became technically operational on September 30 and its rules were published in late October.

It expects to see between 12 and 15 stocks listed by year-end, and to build up to 50 in 12 months. These would include some of the 80 or so European companies already listed on Nasdaq, which are seeking a dual listing.

Belgian-based software firm Artwork Systems plans an IPO later. Belgian Kredietbank unit KB-Securities is lead managing the Innogenetics and Artwork Systems flotations.

To be admitted, firms must be supported by at least two Easdaq-registered market makers and have total assets of 3.5 million Euros and capital and reserves of 2m. Euros.

So far 36 financial institutions have applied for membership as Easdaq dealers, market makers or sponsors.

The Easdaq project originated from contacts between the European Venture Capital Association, the European Commission and various market players.

Elron Electronics net up 4% in 3rd quarter

COMPANY RESULTS
JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

ELRON Electronic Industries Ltd. (Nasdaq: ELRNF) yesterday announced a 4 percent increase in net income to \$2.5 million, compared with \$2.4m. in the same quarter last year.

Third-quarter revenues for the Haifa-based multinational holding company were up 12% from \$303m. last year to \$340m. this year. Elron's affiliates are engaged in the fields of medical diagnostic imaging, advanced defense electronics, communication, semiconductor, networking services and Internet software.

ORCKIT COMMUNICATIONS LTD. yesterday reported a 17% increase in net losses from \$631,000 in last year's third quarter to \$736,000 this year.

Revenues were up 97% to \$2.8m., compared to \$1.4m. for the same period in 1995.

Orckit (Nasdaq: ORCTF), a maker of high-speed local loop communications systems that went public in late September, was the first Israeli company whose Wall Street-based initial public offering was delayed due to greater-than-expected demand.

New Jersey-based INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY (American Stock Exchange: ITH) yesterday announced an increase in third-quarter net losses from \$284,298 last year to \$839,581 this year.

Revenue for the third quarter was up 118%, totalling \$426,000, compared to \$195,000 in the corresponding period one year ago.

Integrated Technology operates two Jerusalem-based subsidiaries, ITH Innovative Technology and Compuprint. The companies design, develop and market products for the Internet telephone and computer and telephone integration markets.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.875	6.000	6.450
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (12.11.96)

Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6129	3.6712	-	-	3.8415
German mark	3.2086	3.2504	3.15	3.31	3.2340
French franc	2.1305	2.1849	2.09	2.20	2.1473
Japanese yen (100)	5.3032	5.3988	5.21	5.47	5.3432
Dutch guilder	0.8902	0.8404	0.81	0.85	0.8352
Swiss franc	2.5926	2.5271	2.53	2.67	2.5515
Spanish peseta (100)	1.8996	1.9303	1.86	1.91	1.8882
British pound	2.5281	2.5928	2.48	2.61	2.5034
Italian lira (1000)	0.4834	0.4912	0.47	0.50	0.4884
Norwegian kroner	0.5081	0.5183	0.49	0.53	0.5116
Denmark krone	0.5251	0.5341	0.54	0.58	0.5684
Finland mark	0.7070	0.7185	0.69	0.73	0.7116
Canadian dollar	2.4026	2.4443	2.36	2.48	2.4127
Australian dollar	2.5282	2.5990	2.48	2.61	2.4847
S. African rand	0.6580	0.6591	0.62	0.70	0.6914
Belgian franc (10)	1.0341	1.0326	1.01	1.07	1.0419
Austrian schilling (10)	3.0277	3.0798	2.97	3.12	3.0511
Italian lire (1000)	2.1154	2.1496	2.07	2.18	2.1329
Jordanian dinar	4.4800	4.7700	4.46	4.77	4.5588
Egyptian pound	0.9100	0.9300	0.91	0.99	0.8945
ECU	4.0788	4.1490	-	-	4.1148
Irish punt	5.3167	5.4025	5.22	5.48	5.3535
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5288	2.5707	2.48	2.61	2.5506

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Shares rise on optimism over peace talks

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



TASE shares rose yesterday as investors were optimistic that Israel and Palestinians would conclude the Hebron redeployment agreement. The Hebron agreement is more important to investors right now than even Friday's consumer price report, which would provide clues to interest rate policy, said Keith Phillips, analyst at the Israeli desk of Societe Generale Strauss Turbulin in London. "Rates are important but they are known," he said, noting that the CPI is estimated to have risen around 1 percent for October. An agreement on an Israeli pullout "will be an encouraging sign." Conglomerate Koor Industries Ltd., Israel's largest company, rose 0.75% to 203.75, while

CURRENCY CROSS RATES table with columns for MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF and rows for various currencies.

Technical difficulties have prevented us from providing most of the international financial reports. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Pope, UN call for action on Zaire

ROME (Reuter) - Pope John Paul and UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali opened a World Food Summit yesterday with pleas for a global effort to help more than a million refugees starving to death in eastern Zaire.

"At the very moment this summit is taking place, over a million starving, frightened refugees are wandering helplessly in the mountains and forests of eastern Zaire," Boutros-Ghali declared in a speech at the start of the gathering.

He told delegates to the five-day summit organized by the Rome-based UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) that only with a "collective, concerted" effort could the tragedy of the Great Lakes region of Africa be resolved.

The crisis was not on the official agenda but the immediate tragedy clearly weighed on the gathering, which opened with leaders adopting an ambitious plan to feed more than 400 million additional mouths by the year 2015.

FAO director general Jacques Diouf said that by approving the declaration in advance, delegates had the opportunity "for the first time in the history of United Nations summits" to focus on actions rather than words.

But Diouf, who is from Senegal, urged leaders to make sure they lived up to the commitments they made in the documents. "These so commendable...decisions risk turning sour if, when taking stock in a few years time, we see that hopes have been dashed, unless measures are taken here and now to mould these decisions into national projects and programmes," he said.

The Pope, who also addressed the summit, later said that "no uncertainty, no excuse, no calculation" could justify any further delay in getting aid to the refugees caught by fighting in eastern Zaire.

The United States, whose logistical support in any international intervention would be vital, assured the summit that it was ready to provide aid and support. "The conscience of the world is confronted with a vast humanitarian crisis in the Great Lakes region of Africa," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said in a speech.

"The United States has already provided a major share" of the humanitarian assistance to this region, and is prepared to provide additional humanitarian assistance and support as soon as mechanisms can be established which will permit the flow of assistance," Glickman said. Canada, which has agreed to command a multinational force that is still awaiting U.N. Security Council approval, urged other nations to join it. The summit, at FAO's Fascist-era Rome headquarters, is set to receive more than 80 heads of state and government. The security arrangements were called into question when three women stripped naked and hijacked Glickman's news conference in a protest against genetically engineered soybeans. A Italian woman in her 20s, who identified herself as Olivia before being escorted away by police, said: "We're not part of any organisation. We're protesting against the genetic engineering of soybeans." It was the only moment of light relief in proceedings otherwise dominated by war and suffering. Boutros Ghali said that hunger and famine had become "weapons of war to be used to kill and kill again." "It is this terrible reality which we must keep in mind to understand how and why we have to act. "From this platform, in this Eternal City, I make a solemn appeal to peoples and to states to take part, all of them, in the collective action we will undertake," he said. Veteran Cuban communist leader Fidel Castro, expected to arrive tomorrow according to diplomatic sources, was given a prominent role as one of six summit vice-chairmen. The Pope, who is likely to meet Castro if he comes to Rome, challenged heads of state and delegates to make every effort to "eliminate the spectre of hunger." He said in an opening speech that it was unacceptable that some people starved while others "lived in opulence." "This contrast between poverty and wealth is intolerable for humanity," the Pontiff told delegates.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading tables listing various stocks with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table listing international stock prices for various companies from different countries, including New York, London, and Frankfurt.

Key Representative Rates table showing U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark rates.

NYSE STOCK MARKET table showing New York market indexes and NYSE stocks.

Other stock market indexes table showing FTSE 100, Nikkei, and other international indexes.

Israeli stocks in US table listing various Israeli companies and their US market performance.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY table showing dollar cross rates.

Labor rates table showing various labor market indicators.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. advertisement.

US commodities table listing prices for various commodities.

London commodities table listing prices for various commodities.

Spot market metals table listing prices for various metals.

New York metal futures table listing prices for various metal futures.

London metal futures table listing prices for various metal futures.

Vertical text on the left margin: The Jerusalem Post, viet, neless, ke kills, en.

Hentgen beats Pettitte for Cy Young Award

NEW YORK (AP) — Pat Hentgen of the Toronto Blue Jays became the first player from a Canadian team to win the Cy Young Award.

Hentgen, who turned 28 yesterday, led the major leagues in complete games (10) and innings pitched (265 2/3) and was second in ERA behind teammate Juan Guzman (2.93).

Hentgen pitched three shutouts, tying Hill and Kevin Brown of Florida for the major league lead.

Pettitte, 24, led the AL in victories and went 13-3 after Yankees losses.

Hentgen, who made \$2.25 million, gets a \$50,000 bonus for winning the award.



Pat Hentgen (AP)

Voting for the AL Cy Young Award, with pitchers receiving five points for each first-place vote, three points for second and one point for third:

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Hentgen, Tor	16	9	3	110
Pettitte, NY	11	16	1	104
Rivera, NY	1	1	10	18
Nagy, Cle	—	—	9	12
Mussina, Bal	—	—	2	5
Fernandez, Chi	—	—	1	1
Fernandez, Chi	—	—	1	1
Hill, Tex	—	—	1	1

Chelsea lines up £30 million investment

LONDON (Reuters) — Premier League club Chelsea said yesterday it was lining up financing to complete the redevelopment of its Stamford Bridge stadium.

Chelsea Village Plc, the company which owns the west London club, issued a statement saying that it was in discussion with several parties to secure the money.

The announcement helps to remove doubts about the club's financial position following the death of millionaire vice-chairman Matthew Harding in a helicopter crash last month.

"As I speak, there are several big hitters who want to invest in Chelsea," chairman Ken Bates told the *Evening Standard* newspaper.

"I have them lined up for the £30 million needed for the West Stand, the sports and leisure center and the office block. It is business as usual, as the signing of (Gianfranco) Zola for £4.5 million this week has demonstrated."

Italian international Zola, who moved from Parma, joins an increasingly cosmopolitan squad managed by Dutchman Ruud Gullit.

Fellow Italians Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo plus Frenchman Franck Leboeuf have been signed by Gullit as Chelsea seek its first major trophy since 1971.

Harding, a passionate Chelsea supporter, bought the Stamford Bridge stadium last year and had built a stake of some 25 percent in the club.

He was among five people killed when a helicopter en route to London from a League Cup match at Bolton came down in northwest England three weeks ago. There were fears that his death would hit the club's plans both on and off the pitch.

These grew last week when director Peter Middleton, who works for US investment firm Salomon Brothers and is a respected figure in the City of London, quit the club after a reported row with Bates.

Bates, who had a series of public clashes with Harding, said he was confident Chelsea would continue to develop.

"I want to see a world-class team in a world-class stadium. I think I will as well," he told the *Evening Standard*.

Whelan retired as player

LONDON (Reuters) — Former Liverpool and Ireland midfielder Ronnie Whelan, now the manager of English First Division side Southend, has been forced to give up playing because of a serious knee injury.

Whelan has conceded his days as a player are over after failing to recover full fitness despite several operations.

"I am okay when it comes to normal training but experience problems when I try to twist and turn," he said yesterday.

Maccabi seeking to get back on Euro track

MACCABI Tel Aviv coach Zvi Scherf ought to invite soul singer Aretha Franklin and comedian Rodney Dangerfield to attend tonight's Euro League contest vs. CSKA Moscow. The two are, after all, experts on R-E-S-P-E-C-T, which is what Maccabi will be seeking in tonight's very important match-up vs. the Russians (Channel 1, 6:55 pm).

The good news for Maccabi is that Oded Katash is red hot, having scored 33 against Rishon LeZion Monday night in Maccabi's 86-84 victory. The bad news is that big man Randy White looked as lost in that game as he has in most of Maccabi's Euro League games this season, which doesn't augur well for Scherf's club against the big Russian side.

Tonight's game is expected to go a long way towards determining who eventually finishes among the top three in Maccabi's Group A.

A, which would earn Maccabi easier opponents in the next round of play. CSKA is also coming off a superb 96-66 triumph last week over Greece's Panionios, and coach Stanislav Yeremin's club should be in top form for tonight's contest.

Maccabi, unfortunately, isn't. Not only has White seemed lost on the court lately, so has point guard Doron Sheffer. Nadav Henefeld has been inconsistent, and had an especially bad game last week vs. Limoges, where the entire team never seemed to get into the action. True, Maccabi showed some grit in beating Rishon, but they can't rely on the talented Katash coming up with a big game every night.

What to do about White? Maccabi should stay with him and try to go to him on offense as early as possible. White's confidence is waning, and a few early baskets should work wonders. He should be happy to see the CSKA jerseys — he scored 29 against them at Yad Eliahu in arguably his best game of the season. Buck Johnson has played well of late, and should use his smooth moves to score against CSKA, while Scherf showed he has increasing confidence in Constantin Popa by starting the giant center vs. Rishon Monday night.

As for the club's inconsistent backcourt, Scherf should find some playing time as possible for Brad Leaf, who poses additional trouble for defenders with his ability to go to the basket, something Sheffer has been reluctant to do. An appearance by Burko Radovitch — buried on the bench of late — is also warranted, since he's a fine defender, and like Leaf doesn't mind bullying his way to the hoop to draw fouls.

Most importantly, Scherf must do everything possible to prevent another heartbreaking loss like the one Maccabi suffered at the hands of CSKA at Yad Eliahu, when Igor Koudelin's three-pointer beat Maccabi at the buzzer, 78-77. That means blanketing Koudelin anytime he gets the ball beyond the arc, and perhaps having Henefeld — Maccabi's best defender — on him in a box-and-one zone defense.

The CSKA club Maccabi faces tonight is not quite the same team they played then. For one, foreigner Marcus Webb has improved his play tremendously, but White should be able to use his athleticism to get around the slower Webb.

Yeremin says he plans to use veteran Andrei Spiridonov against Maccabi instead of 2.1m. center Igor Korashov in a bid to slow down Maccabi's running game. CSKA has point guard Anton Yudin back from injury to go with the talented Sergei Bazarevich, and Maccabi had trouble last time with Valeri Daineko, who scored 15 at Yad Eliahu. The 5,000 fans expected aren't likely to make the task any easier for Maccabi.

In the end, it comes down to that R word again, respect. It's time for Maccabi to put up or shut up vis a vis its European season. It's time for Sheffer to earn some respect by showing he can be a leading Euro League point guard, for White to get opponents to once again fear him inside, and for Maccabi to stop talking about potential, and start playing like champions.

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

GROUP A

Team	W	L	Pts.
Stetanel Milan	5	1	11
CSKA Moscow	3	3	9
Ulsaar	3	3	9
Maccabi Tel Aviv	2	4	8
Panionios	2	4	8
Limoges	2	4	8

Lakers deal Rockets first loss of season

HOUSTON — Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points and 15 rebounds and Nick Van Exel got eight of his 29 points in double overtime as the Los Angeles Lakers dealt the Houston Rockets their first loss of the season, 126-115 on Tuesday.

Despite playing without O'Neal, who fouled out with 17 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Los Angeles outscored Houston 13-2 in the second overtime. Cedric Ceballos had 22 points and 10 rebounds and Eddie Jones added 18 points although he fouled out with 9:46 left in the fourth.

"I felt we played very well," O'Neal said. "We took the Rockets into two overtimes even after two starters fouled out. The win brings us closer together as a team. If everyone can play their role like tonight than we can win on any given night."

Charles Barkley scored 33 points and Hakeem Olajuwon added 31 for Houston (6-1), which was the last undefeated team in the Western Conference. The defending champion Chicago Bulls are now the NBA's only undefeated team (7-0).

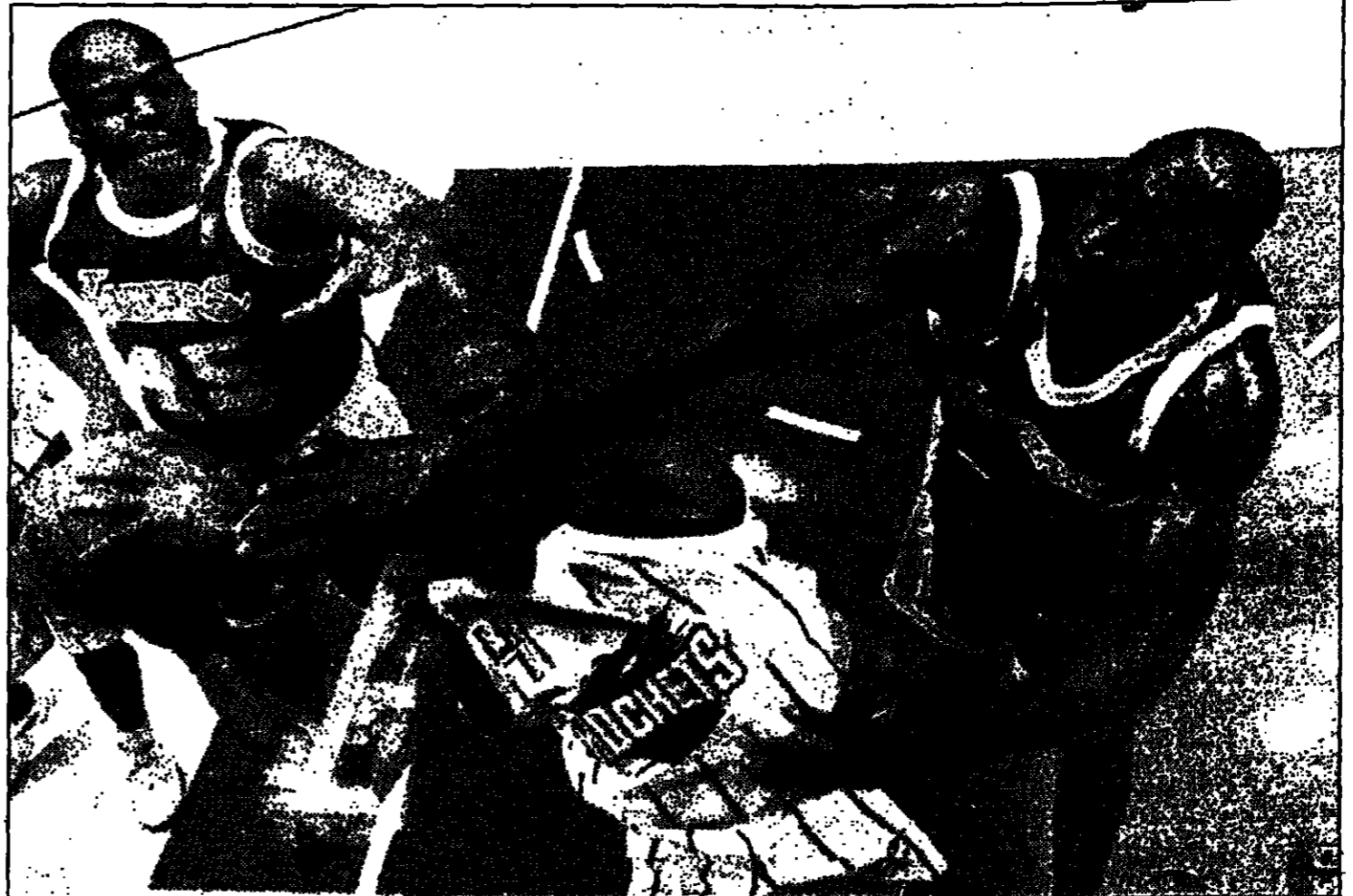
"We played as well as we could but that's basketball," said Barkley after the battle of Western Conference powers. "I didn't expect us to go 82-0. This will be a battle all year with these guys. Utah, Seattle and the Lakers; every time we play these teams we have to be ready to play."

"It was a good game and it could have gone either way," said Olajuwon, who scored eight of Houston's 13 points in the first overtime. "LA played a wonderful game down the stretch. We missed some wide open shots at the end that we have to make. We found the open man but didn't make the shot."

76ers 101, Knicks 97

Allen Iverson scored 25 of his 35 points in the second half and made a key steal in the final minute as Philadelphia got its first win at Madison Square Garden in nearly three years.

The quicksilver Iverson, top pick in last June's draft, fouled out both New York point guards in the



ABORTED TAKE OFF — Los Angeles's Shaquille O'Neal blocks Houston's Charles Barkley.

fourth quarter, when he scored 10 points and corralled two crucial loose balls.

"I think I already proved that I should be on this level," he said. "Now what I'm trying to do is win. Whatever the team needs me to do, whatever the coaches want me to do, that's what I try to do. I don't try to go out there and impress."

Jerry Stackhouse added 28 points for Philadelphia.

Larry Johnson led New York with 28 but had two of the three missed three-pointers that could have tied the game in the closing seconds. Patrick Ewing had 26 points and 15 rebounds for the Knicks, 4-0 on the road but 1-2 at home.

Clippers 99, Grizzlies 92 (OT)

Malik Sealy scored 22 points and Pooh Richardson got five of his 15 in the second overtime to lead visiting Los Angeles over the winless Grizzlies.

Stanley Roberts also scored 15 for the Clippers, his first consecutive wins for the past time this season. Los Angeles trailed the entire game until Richardson

banked a short jumper as time ran out in the fourth quarter, tying the score 81-81.

Bryant Reeves scored a career-high 30 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies (0-7).

Mavericks 103, Pacers 82

Derek Harper had 17 points and Jim Jackson added 16 as Dallas presented new coach Jim Cleamons with his first home victory. (Reuters, AP)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	6	1	.857	—
Minnesota	3	3	.500	2 1/2
Utah	2	2	.500	2 1/2
Denver	3	4	.429	3
Dallas	2	4	.333	3 1/2
San Antonio	1	5	.167	4 1/2
Vancouver	0	7	.000	6

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	5	2	.714	—
Seattle	5	2	.714	—
L.A. Clippers	4	2	.667	1/2
Portland	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Sacramento	2	4	.333	2 1/2
Golden State	1	5	.167	3 1/2
Phoenix	0	7	.000	5

TUESDAY'S RESULTS:
Philadelphia 101, New York 97
Detroit 92, Washington 79
Miami 105, Charlotte 97
Atlanta 87, Cleveland 83
Minnesota 100, Portland 97
Dallas 103, Indiana 82
Milwaukee 99, Phoenix 89 (OT)
L.A. Lakers 126, Houston 115 (OT)
Seattle 121, Golden State 102
L.A. Clippers 99, Vancouver 92 (OT)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	5	1	.833	—
New York	3	2	.611	1/2
Orlando	2	1	.667	1 1/2
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	2
Washington	2	4	.333	3
Boston	1	4	.200	3 1/2
New Jersey	0	3	.000	3 1/2

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	7	0	1.000	—
Detroit	5	1	.833	1 1/2
Milwaukee	5	1	.833	1 1/2
Cleveland	4	2	.667	2 1/2
Atlanta	4	3	.571	3
Charlotte	3	3	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	2	3	.400	4
Indiana	1	4	.200	5

Beersheba beats Mac. Haifa in Toto Cup action

HAPOEL Beersheba registered a victory against the formbook yesterday when it beat Maccabi Haifa 2-1 in the last outstanding Toto Cup fifth round fixture.

The match, hosted by Haifa in Netanya, was a defensive disaster on its part as well as less than a minute game. Beersheba took the lead when Arif Benmado made a dreadful backpass to Bonnie Ginzburg in the Haifa goal.

Sharon Avitan pounced on the ball and slotted it home.

The rest of the first half was a dull affair, and Haifa managed to equalize only after 70 minutes

play, when Amir Turjeman struck a low, hard shot past Shaul Smadia in the Beersheba goal.

Haifa's reprieve was a brief one, as another defensive blunder allowed Oren Sagron to strike the wimmer two minutes later.

In other news the on-again, off-again move by Reuven Atar from Hapoel to Maccabi Haifa appears to be on and on for all after Maccabi boss Ya'akov Shabar made an improved financial offer to Hapoel's Rubie Shapira in London on Tuesday night. Earlier, Shapira had said the deal was off after failing to receive an adequate fee for the loan of the player until the end of the season.

It is not clear whether Atar will be available for this weekend's big match between Maccabi Haifa and Maccabi Tel Aviv, as Shabar's signature on the transfer form was faxed in from London. IFA officials said he had to sign it in their presence for the transfer to be completed in time. The matter is under discussion by legal advisers and could be settled today.

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Yehosua Feigenbaum has taken over the coach's job at Maccabi Herzliya and yesterday held his first practice session.

Herzliya will be looking to Feigenbaum, an inspirational coach who has reversed all club's fortunes before, to lift the team from its terrible plight, with only a solitary point to its name at the bottom of the National League standings.

Group B

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac. Haifa	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Mac. Beersheba	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
Mac. Tel Aviv	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
Mac. PT	5	1	2	2	1	8	5

Devils down Caps for fifth straight win

EAST RUTHERFORD (Reuters) — Scott Niedermayer scored off a 2-on-1 at 3:04 of overtime to give the New Jersey Devils their fifth straight win, 3-2 over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday.

On the winning play, John MacLean — who was denied a breakthrough chance moments earlier when he was tripped by defenseman Brendan Witt — broke down the left wing.

He slid a pass across to the right faceoff circle to Niedermayer, who one-timed a low wrist shot that beat goaltender Jim Carey low to the glove side.

"I saw they had only one guy back with John," said Niedermayer. "I knew where the net was and John made a great pass. I had a lot of net to shoot for and I wasn't thinking about anything but putting the shot on net."

Both of Niedermayer's goals this season have been game-winners.

"Andy (Dave Andreychuk) kind of flipped the puck off the boards," MacLean said. "I went down to get it and saw Niedermayer was flying. I just got the puck to him in time and his speed made the play."

Martin Brodeur made only 18 saves, but raised his career mark against Washington to 11-0-1. The Devils have won seven straight against the Capitals and are unbeaten in their last 10 versus Washington (9-0-1).

"Definitely the biggest difference in the game is that we were trying to hang on for a tie and they were trying to win it," said Capitals coach Jim Schoenfeld. "It comes down to believing. I don't think we believe we can beat this team."

He added: "We better solve it soon because we have them twice in the next seven or eight games. It's certainly something that will have to be addressed."

The five-game winning streak is New Jersey's longest since opening the 1993-94 season with seven straight victories.

Denis Pederson and Brian Rolston gave the Devils a 2-0 lead before Andrei Nikolishin and Joe Juneau scored 80 seconds apart to tie the game for Washington.

Juneau's goal was his first since Washington acquired him from Hartford on Saturday.

Nikolishin's goal snapped Brodeur's personal shutout streak at 189 minutes, 58 seconds.

"I knew the streak was going on. When a streak gets snapped, that usually happens," said Brodeur, referring to the Caps' two quick goals. "I just wanted to keep the streak going. It's fun to be a part of. I wanted to extend my record, but I'd rather have the win."

Penguins 3, Sabres 0

Jaromir Jagr scored a pair of third-period goals and added an assist and Ken Wregget made 25 saves for his seventh career shutout as the Penguins continued their home dominance of the Buffalo Sabres.

Pittsburgh is 8-1-1 in its last 10 home games against Buffalo, which was shut out for a league-leading fifth time this season.

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WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	11	5	0	22	46	38
Chicago	10	6	2	22	49	34
Toronto	10	6	2	22	54	34
St. Louis	8	9	0	18	54	55
Phoenix	5	8	2	12	37	44

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	12	4	3	27	70	38
Los Angeles	7	7	3	17	50	56
San Jose	7	8	3	17	52	57
Edmonton	6	10	0	12	49	59
Vancouver	5	9	0	10	44	44
Calgary	3	7	8	11	44	39
Anaheim	3	11	3	9	48	67

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	10	2	4	24	51	30
New Jersey	9	5	1	19	39	38
Philadelphia	9	6	1	18	59	50
N.Y. Rangers	8	8	4	18	50	57
Washington	7	9	0	14	43	48
Tampa Bay	6	7	2	14	50	49
N.Y. Islanders	3	5	11	8	36	44

Northeast Division

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Hartford	8	5	2	18	47	44
Buffalo	7	9	1	15	42	50
Montreal	6	9	3	15	54	70
Boston	5	7	2	13	45	54
Ottawa	4	6	5	13	43	47
Pittsburgh	5	10	1	11	47	61

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL — Cup Winners Cup: Real Madrid 77, Hapoel Galil Elyon, 70.

KORSA CUP: Maccabi Rishon LeZion 94, Levallois SC (France) 82; UNICAJA Malaga (Spain) 82, Hapoel Holon, 65.

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